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A SUPERMAN

FEATURED IN

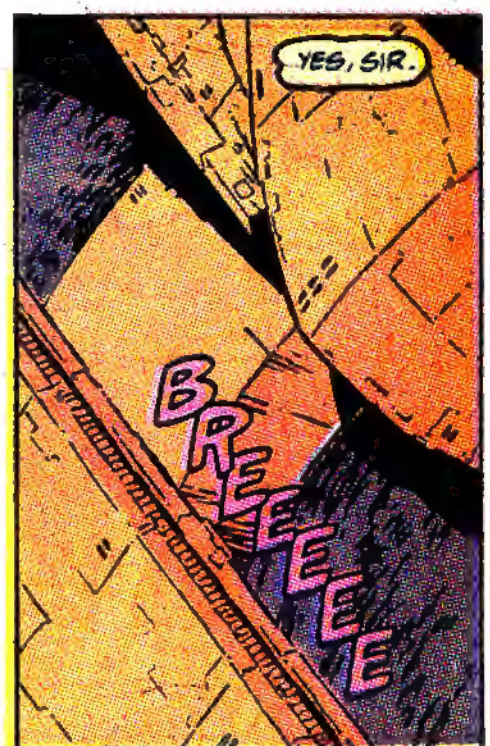
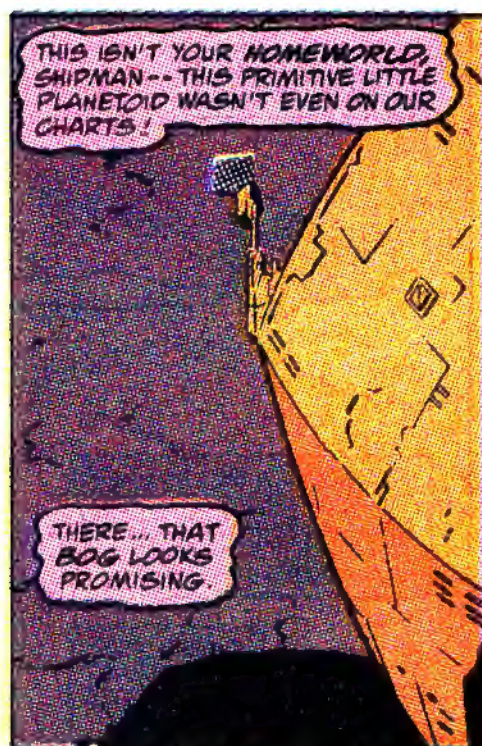
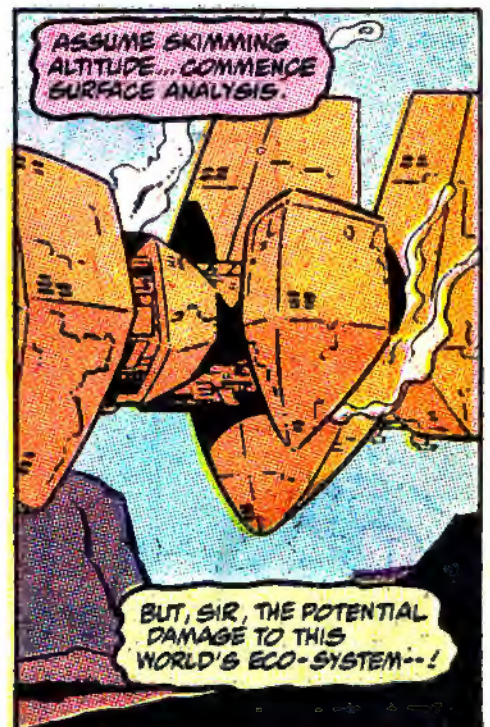
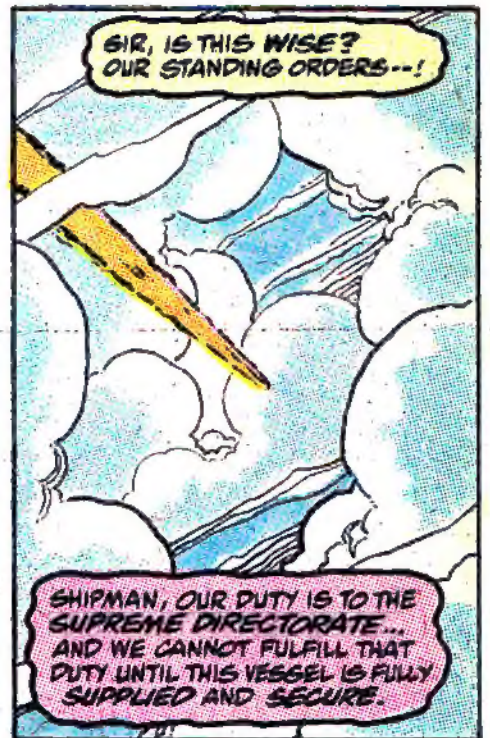
ACTION

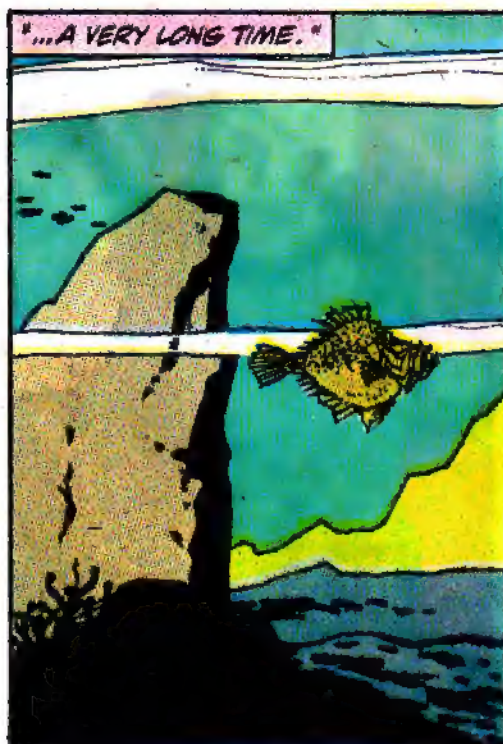
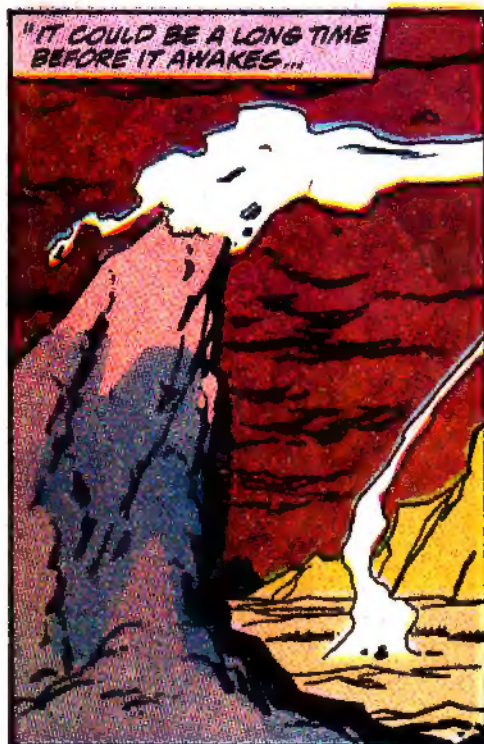
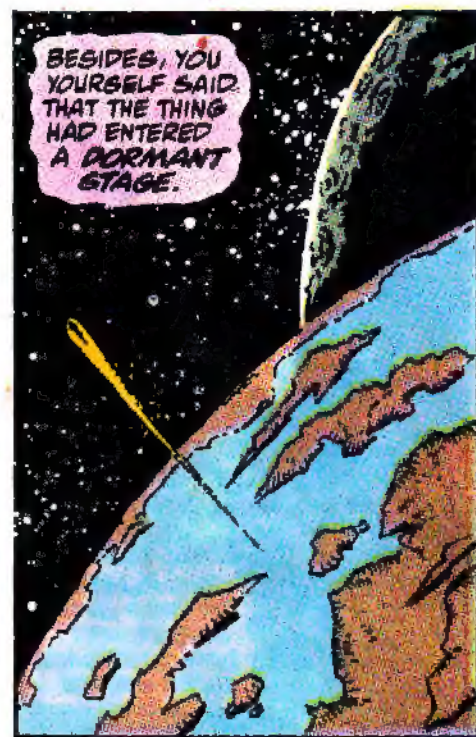
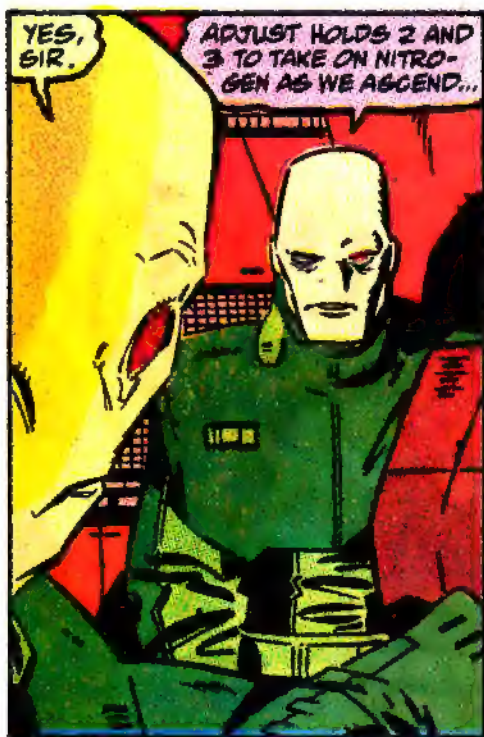
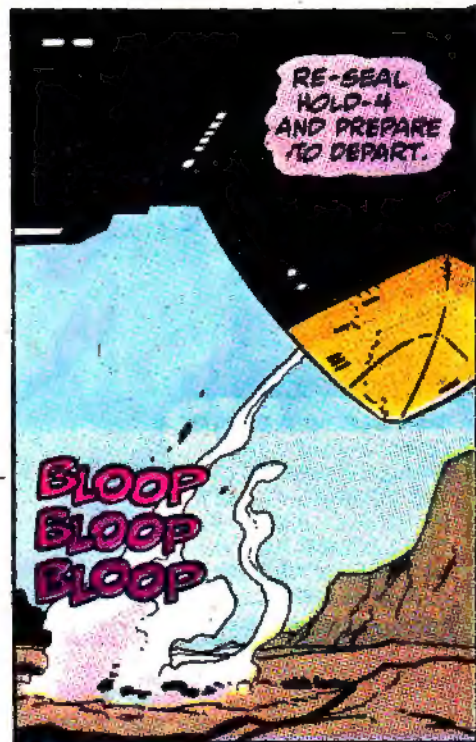
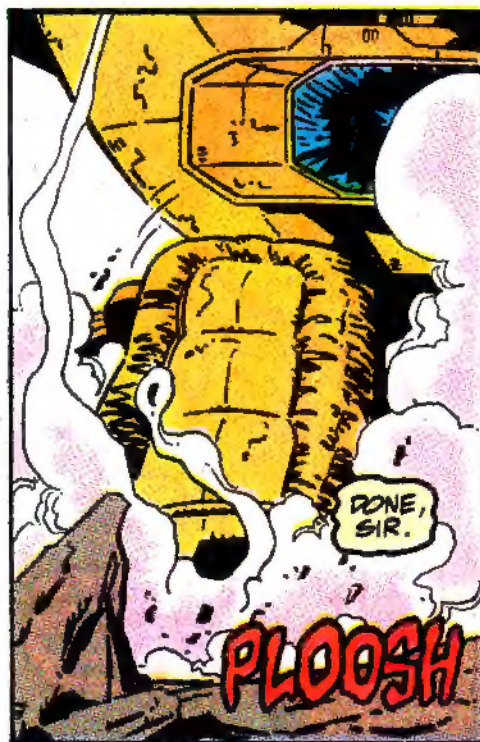
COMICS®



BY
GLENN
STERN
& JANKE







... A RACE OF SENTIENT BEINGS HAS ARISEN ON THIS PLANET AND SPREAD ACROSS ITS SURFACE. THEY HAVE BUILT GREAT CITIES ON ALL OF THEIR WORLD'S LAND MASSES...

--SAVE FOR THIS ONE. IN THIS DESOLATE PLACE, THEY HAVE MANAGED TO ERECT ONLY A HANDFUL OF TINY SETTLEMENTS.

OVER THE EONS, THE LITTLE WORLD HAS KNOWN OTHER ALIEN VISITATIONS. SOME CAME AS FRIENDS, OTHERS AS FOES.

BUT ONE STRANGE VISITOR, CONCEIVED BEYOND THE STARS, WAS SENT FROM A DYING WORLD TO BE BORN ON THIS GOOD EARTH.

HE WAS RAISED AS A MAN AND HAS BECOME THE CHAMPION OF ALL HUMANITY.

SUPERMAN

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

HIS MIGHTY FORM IS INVULNERABLE TO THE FRIGID ANTARCTIC WINDS. BUT THE MISSION WHICH HAS BROUGHT HIM HERE HAS CHILLED HIS GREAT HEART.

SO THIS
IS WHAT IT'S
COME TO!

BURIAL
GROUND

ROGER
STERN
SCRIPTER

KEITH GIFFEN
GUEST-PLOTTER/PENCILLER

DENNIS
JANKE
INKER

BILL
OAKLEY
LETTERER

GLENN
WHITMORE
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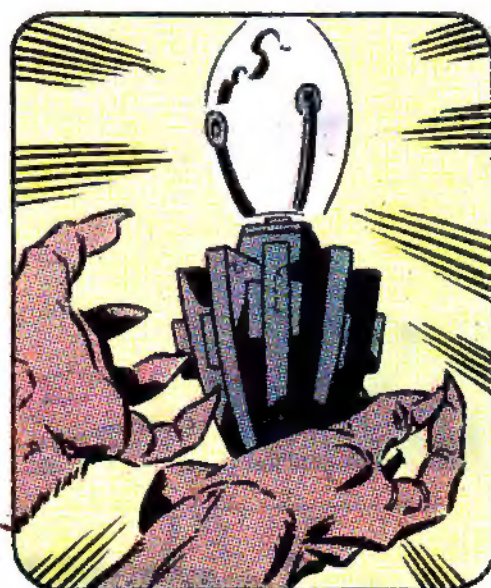


HARD TO BELIEVE
SO MUCH HAS
HAPPENED IN
JUST A FEW
WEEKS. IT
SEEMS LIKE
A LIFETIME
AGO...



"-- THAT I MET THE OLD CLERIC,
HALFWAY ACROSS THE UNIVERSE.

"THE CLERIC MAINTAINED THAT WE
WERE DESTINED TO MEET..."



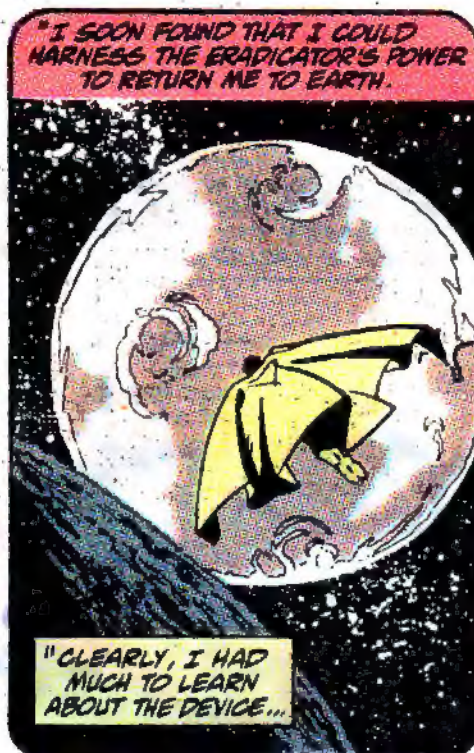
"... THAT WE HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO-
GETHER BY A DEVICE CALLED THE
ERADICATOR -- A MIRACLE MACHINE
THAT HAD BEEN CREATED ON MY
ANCESTORS' WORLD OF KRYPTON
200,000 YEARS AGO."



YOU AND THIS ARTIFACT
ARE ALL THAT REMAIN
OF THAT WORLD...

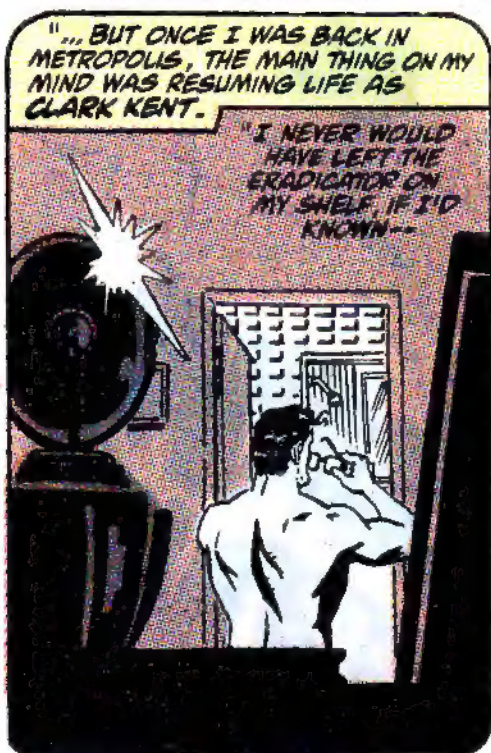
...TAKE IT... LEARN FROM
IT. AS LONG AS YOU EN-
DURE, KRYPTON LIVES ON!

"I COULDN'T REFUSE
HIS DYING REQUEST."



"I SOON FOUND THAT I COULD
HARNESS THE ERADICATOR'S POWER
TO RETURN ME TO EARTH."

"CLEARLY, I HAD
MUCH TO LEARN
ABOUT THE DEVICE..."



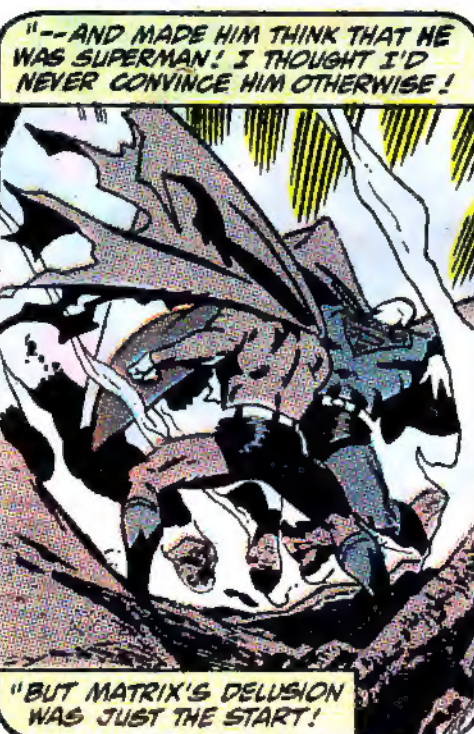
"... BUT ONCE I WAS BACK IN
METROPOLIS, THE MAIN THING ON MY
MIND WAS RESUMING LIFE AS
CLARK KENT."

"I NEVER WOULD
HAVE LEFT THE
ERADICATOR ON
MY SHELF IF I'D
KNOWN..."



"-- THAT MATRIX HAD
ASSUMED MY CIVILIAN
IDENTITY AND GAINED
ACCESS TO MY
APART-
MENT."

"MATRIX MUST HAVE BEEN ATTRAC-
TED TO THE ERADICATOR LIKE A MOTH
TO THE FLAME. CONTACT WITH THE
THING SOMEHOW LINKED HIS CON-
FUSED MIND WITH MINE--"

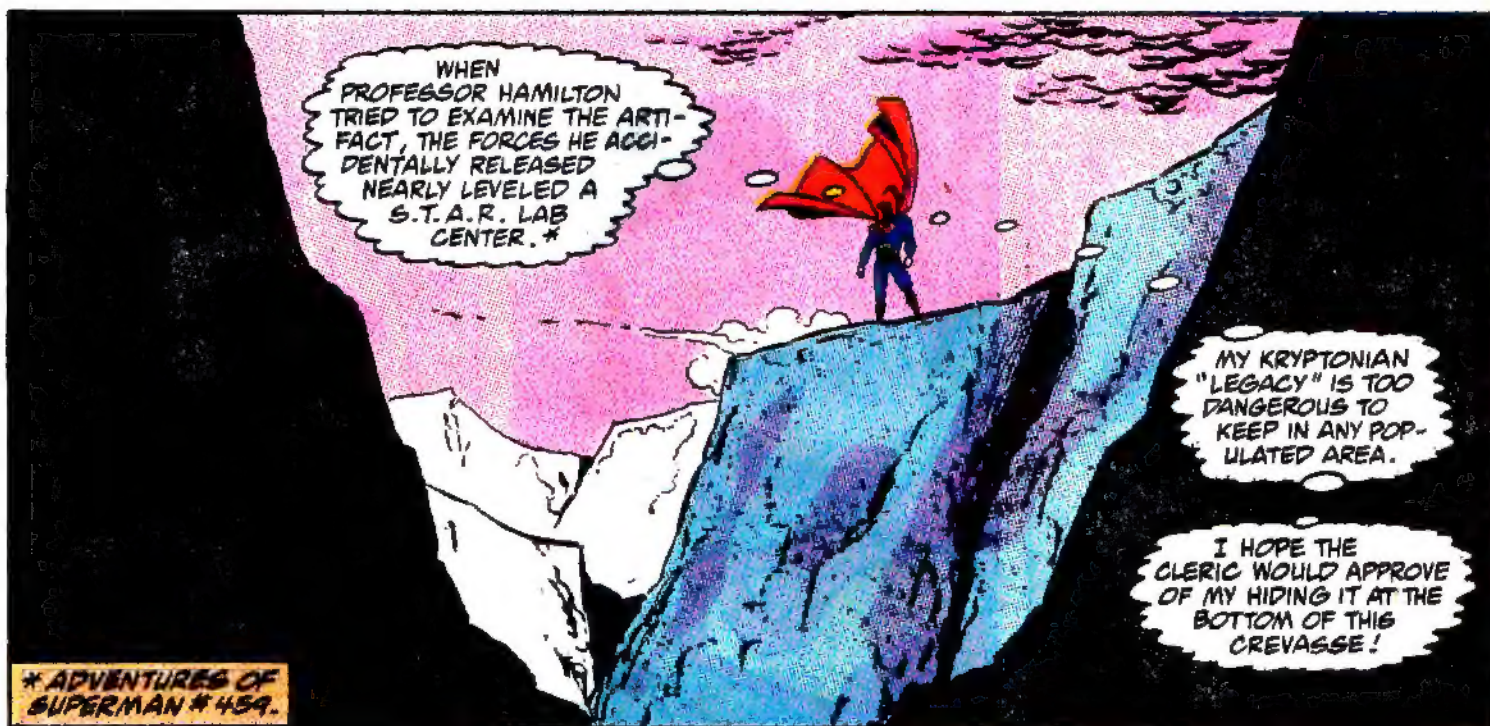


"-- AND MADE HIM THINK THAT HE
WAS SUPERMAN! I THOUGHT I'D
NEVER CONVINCE HIM OTHERWISE!"

"BUT MATRIX'S DELUSION
WAS JUST THE START!"



"THE ERADICATOR HAD ALSO
AFFECTED JIMMY OLSEN,
TURNING HIS BODY PAINFULLY
ELASTIC!"



WHEN PROFESSOR HAMILTON TRIED TO EXAMINE THE ARTIFACT, THE FORCES HE ACCIDENTALLY RELEASED NEARLY LEVELED A S.T.A.R. LAB CENTER.*

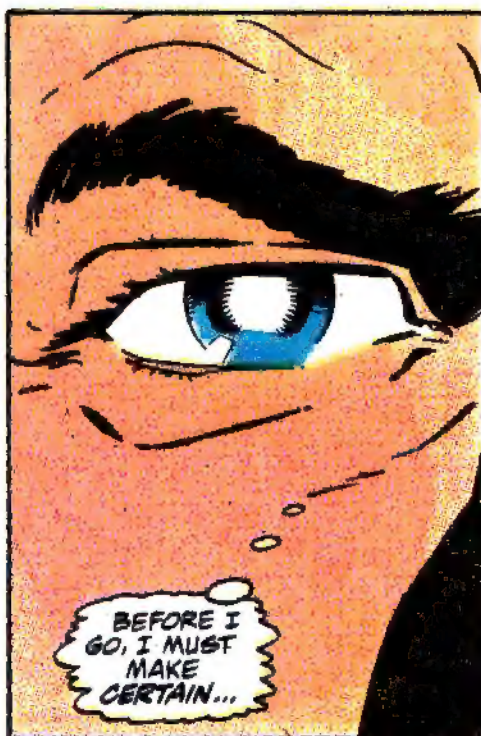
MY KRYPTONIAN "LEGACY" IS TOO DANGEROUS TO KEEP IN ANY POPULATED AREA.

I HOPE THE CLERIC WOULD APPROVE OF MY HIDING IT AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS CREVASSE!

*ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #459.



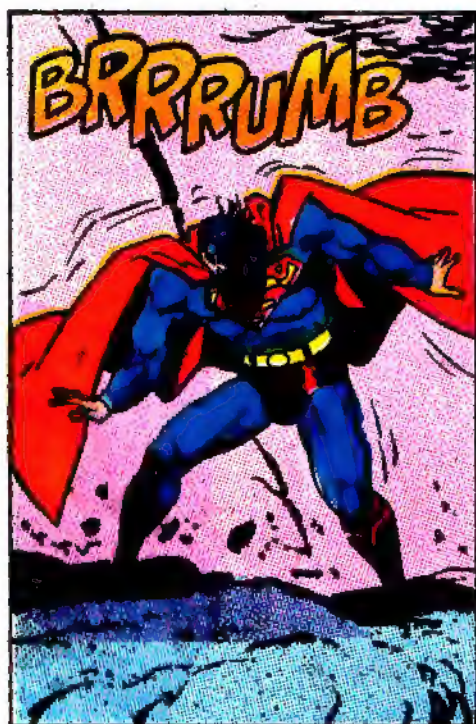
IF WE EVER FIND A SAFE WAY TO MAKE USE OF ITS POWER, THEN I'LL CONSIDER RETRIEVING IT...



BEFORE I GO, I MUST MAKE CERTAIN...



...YES! THE CONTAINMENT SHELL WE RIGGED AROUND THE ERADICATOR IS STILL INTACT. NOTHING FURTHER TO WORRY ABOUT HERE.



BRRRRUMB

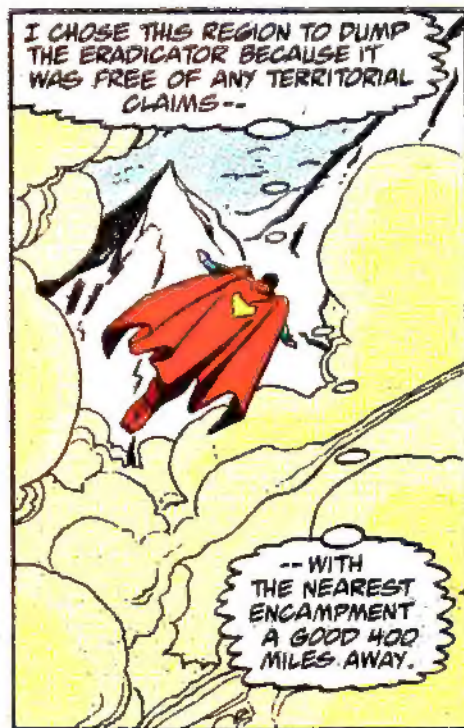


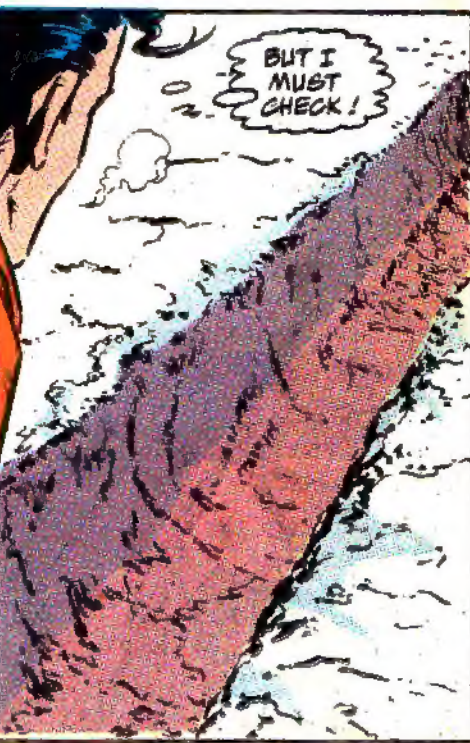
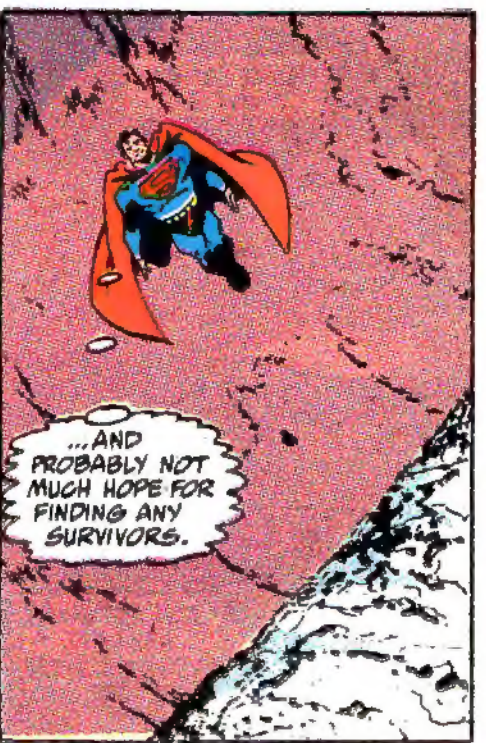
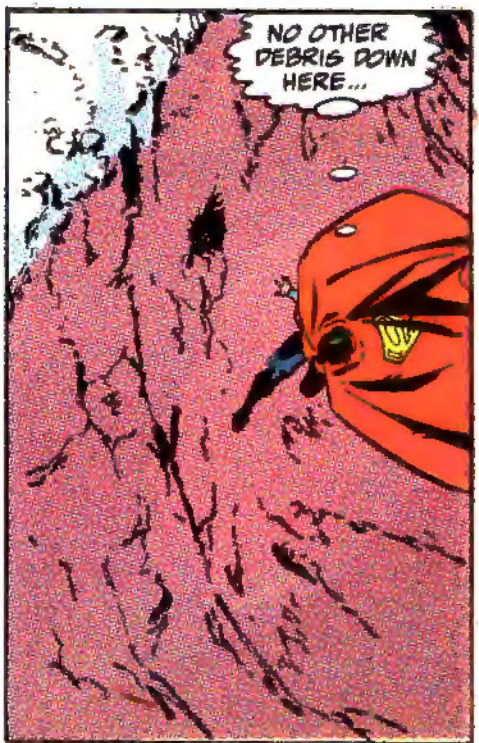
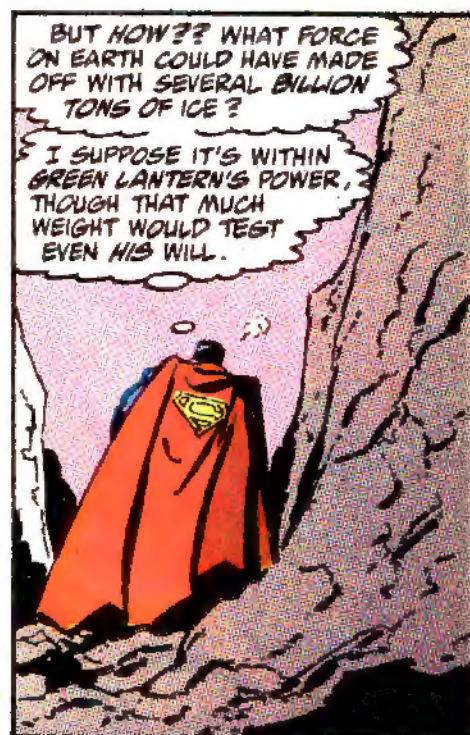
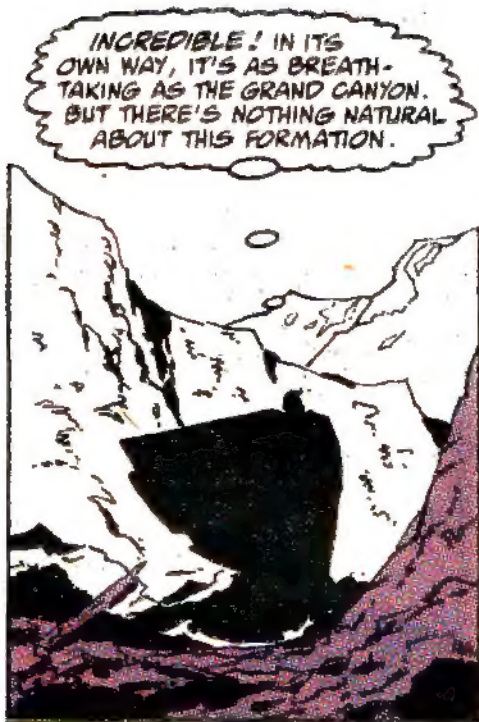
WHAT IN THE--? THAT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE A NORMAL EARTH TREMOR--

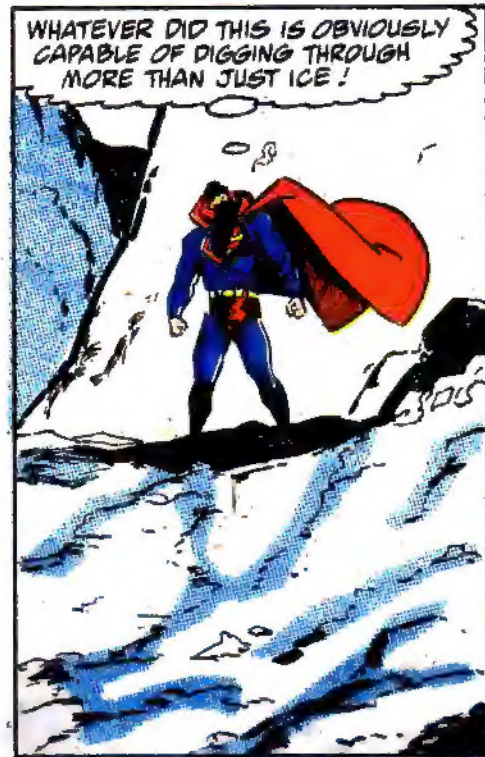
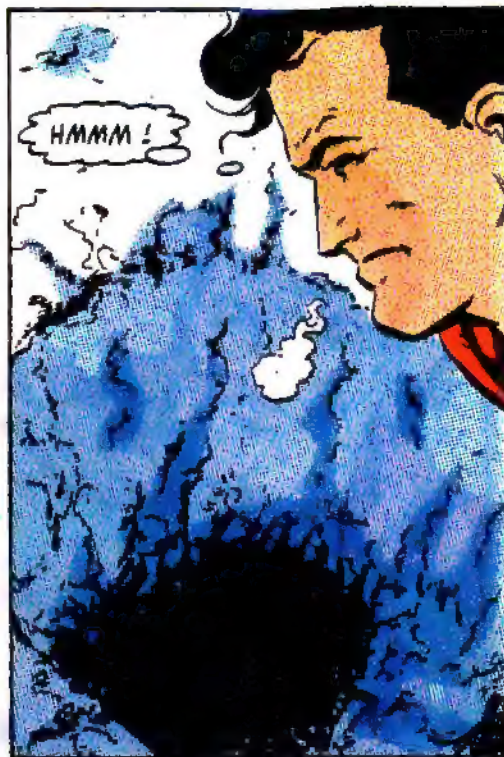


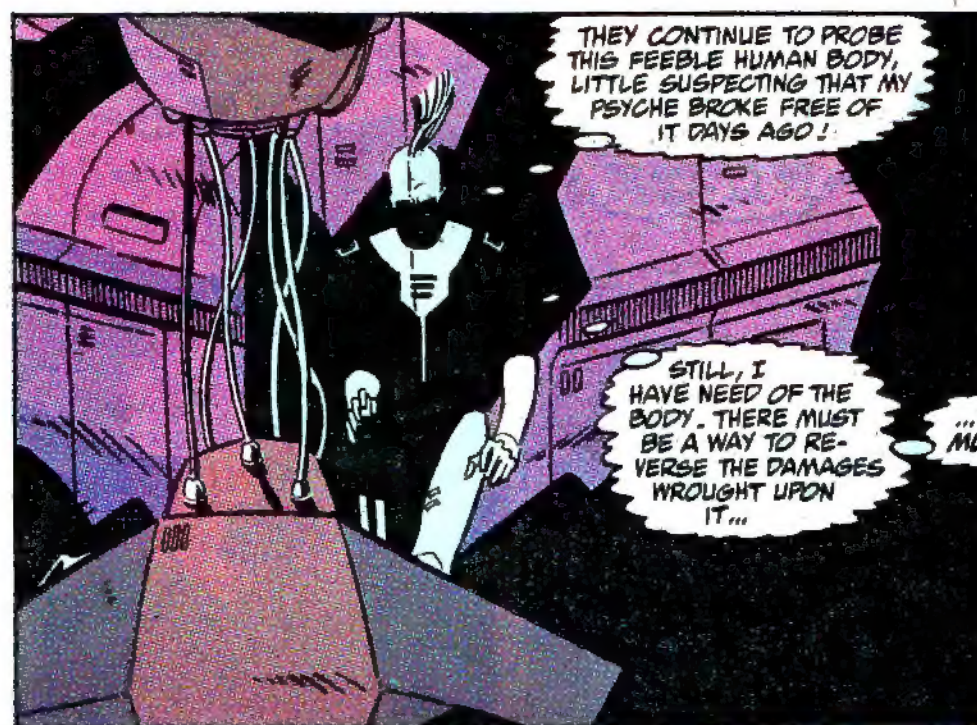
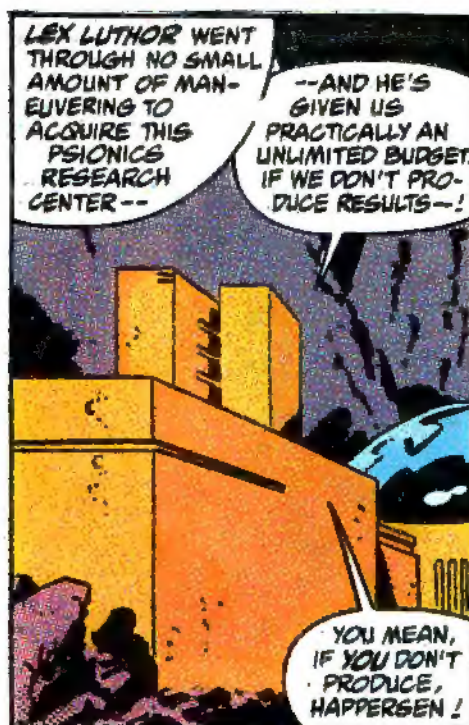
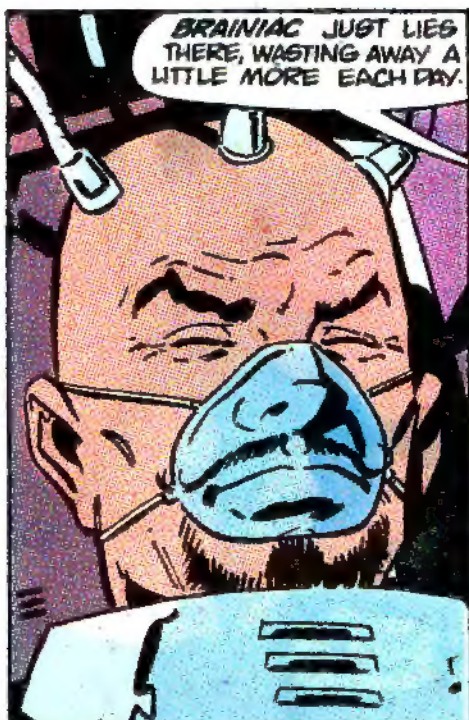
--AND THE NOISE WAS TOO LOUD TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY ANY NATURAL ICE SHIFT. IT WAS MORE LIKE A DISTANT EXPLOSION!

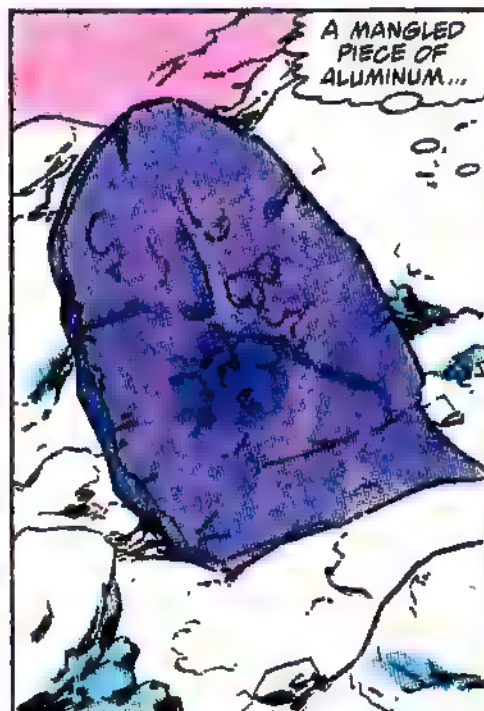
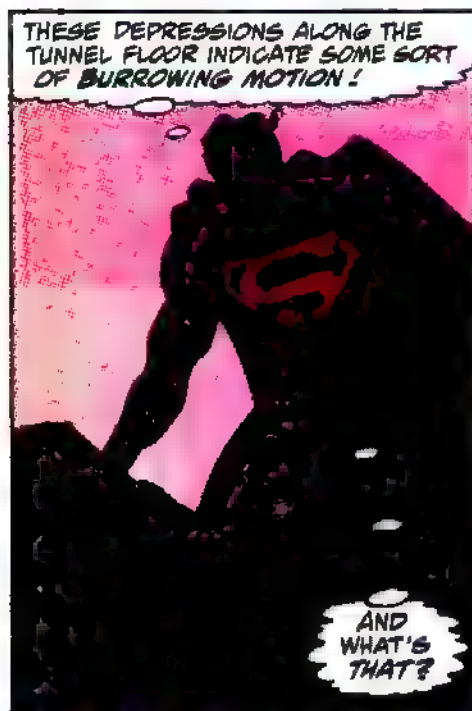
I'D BETTER INVESTIGATE...

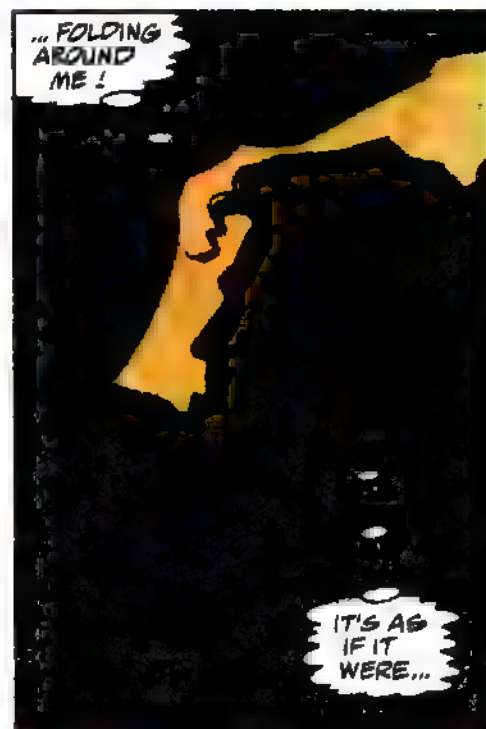
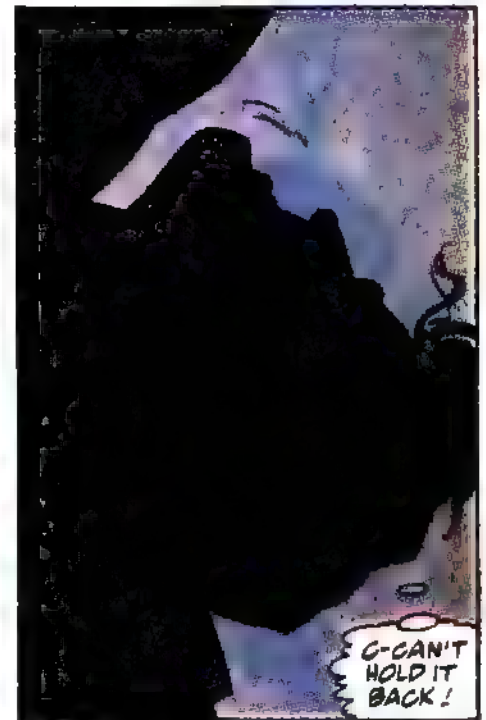


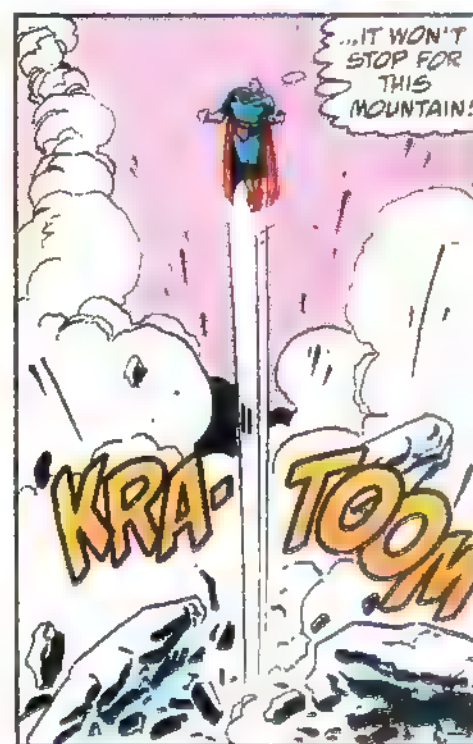
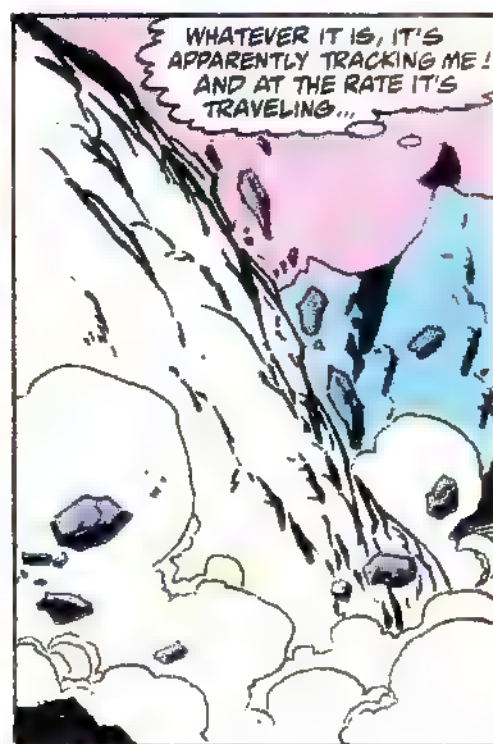
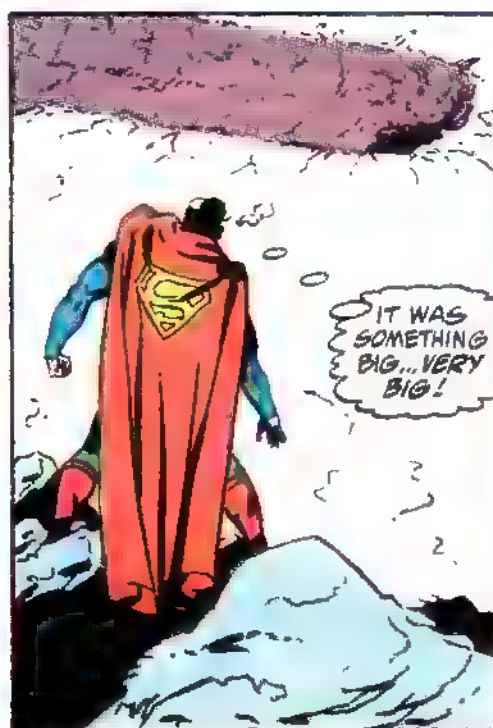
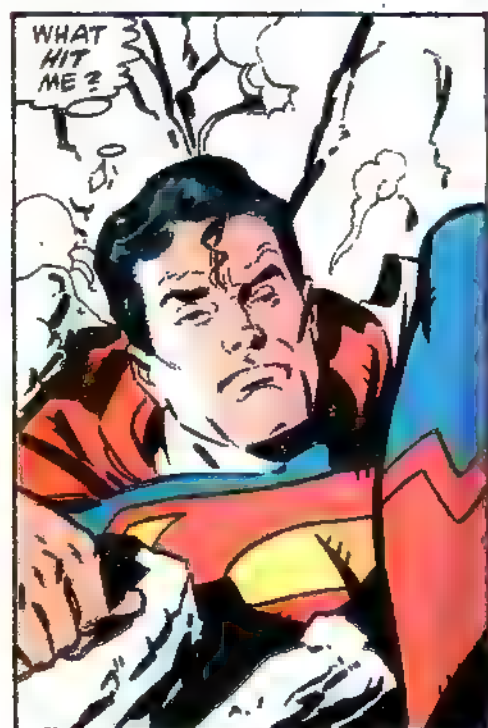
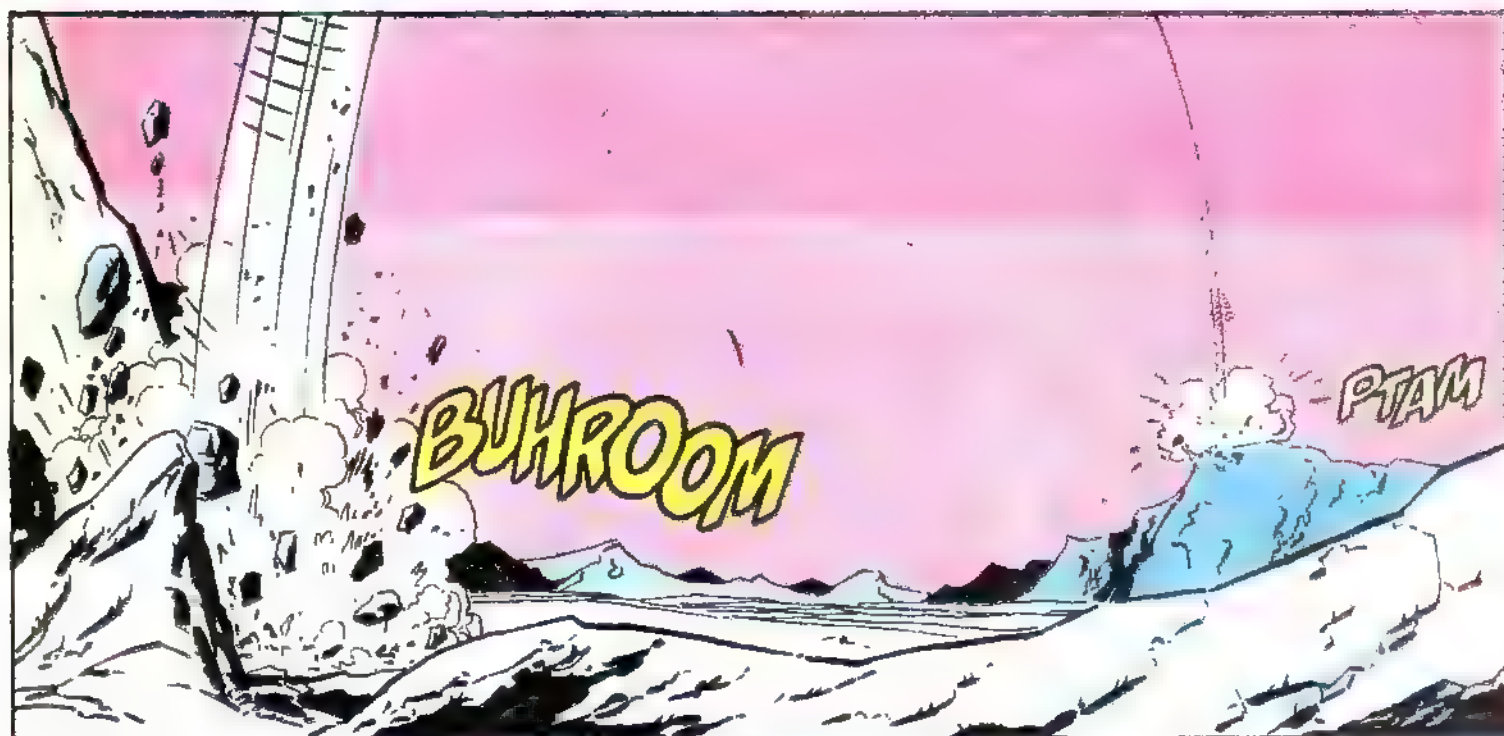














GOOD LORD!

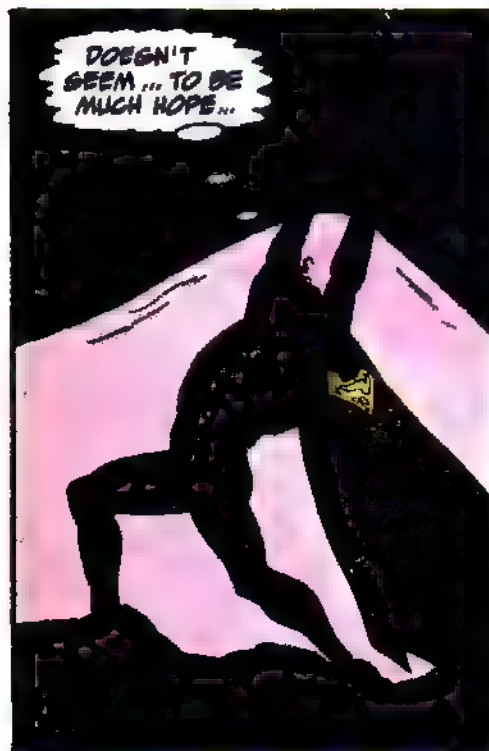
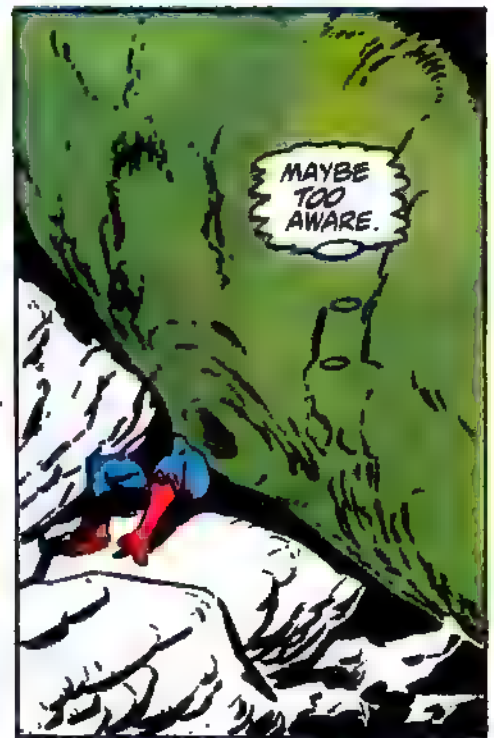
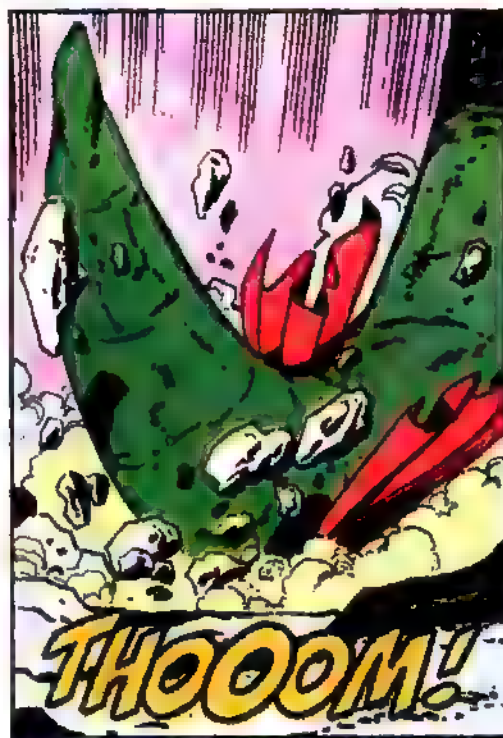
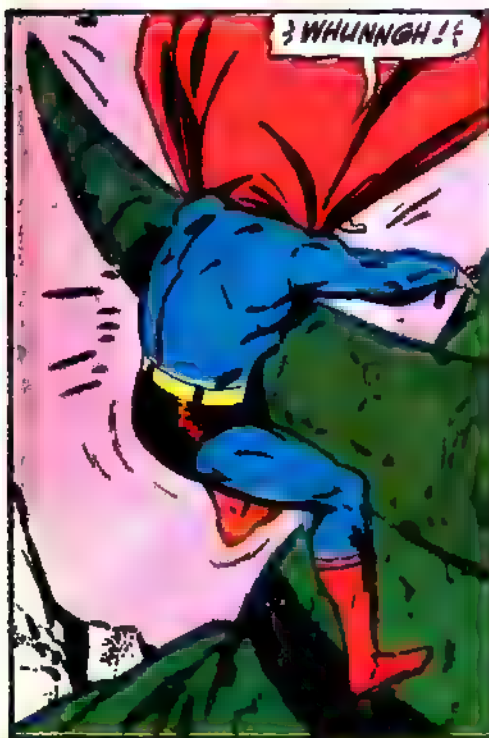
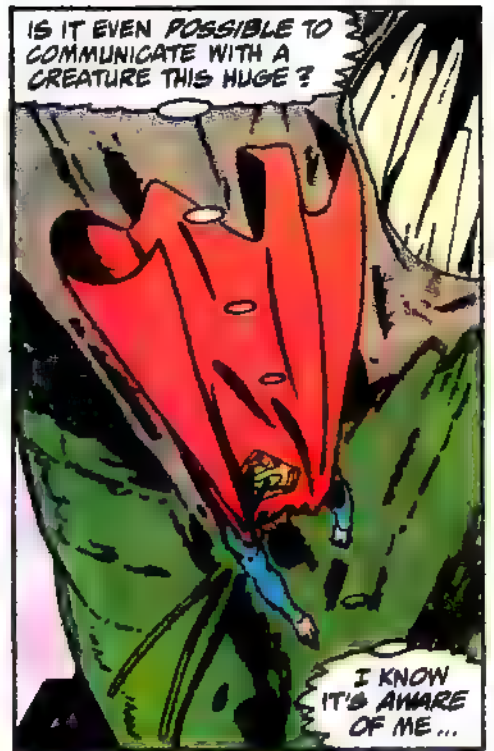
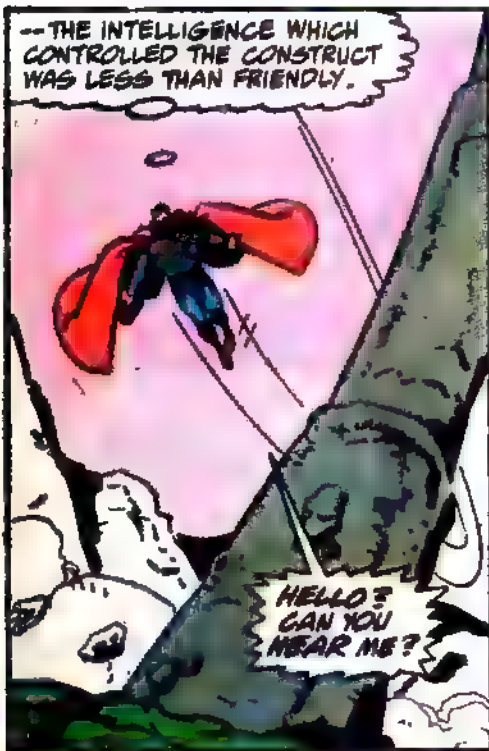
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO... IMMENSE! HOW CAN A CREATURE THIS SIZE EVEN EXIST, LET ALONE MOVE? UNLESS...

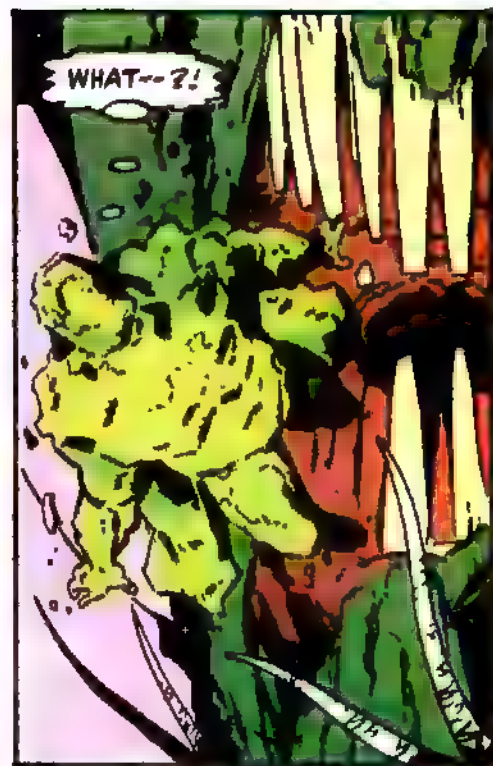
...THIS WAS CAUSED BY THE ERADICATOR?

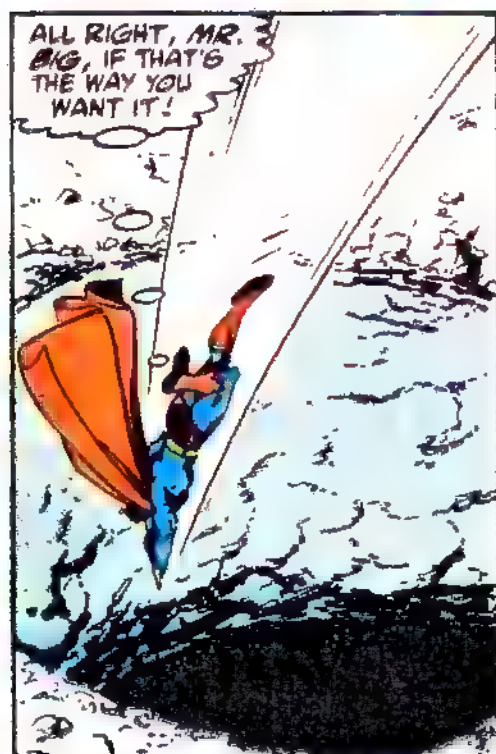
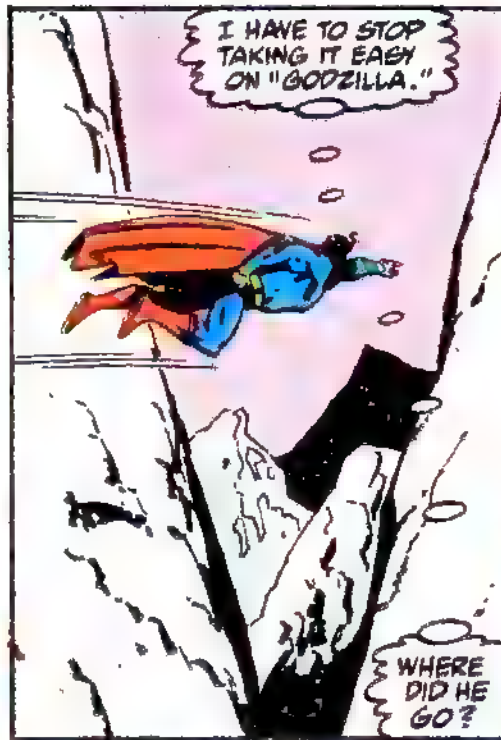
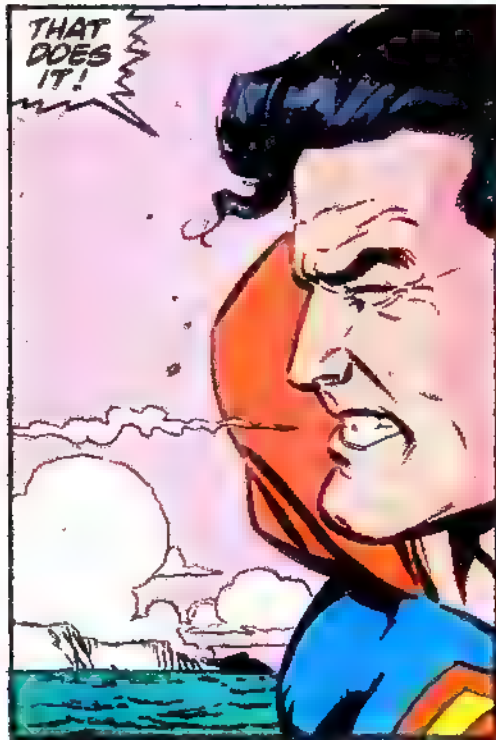
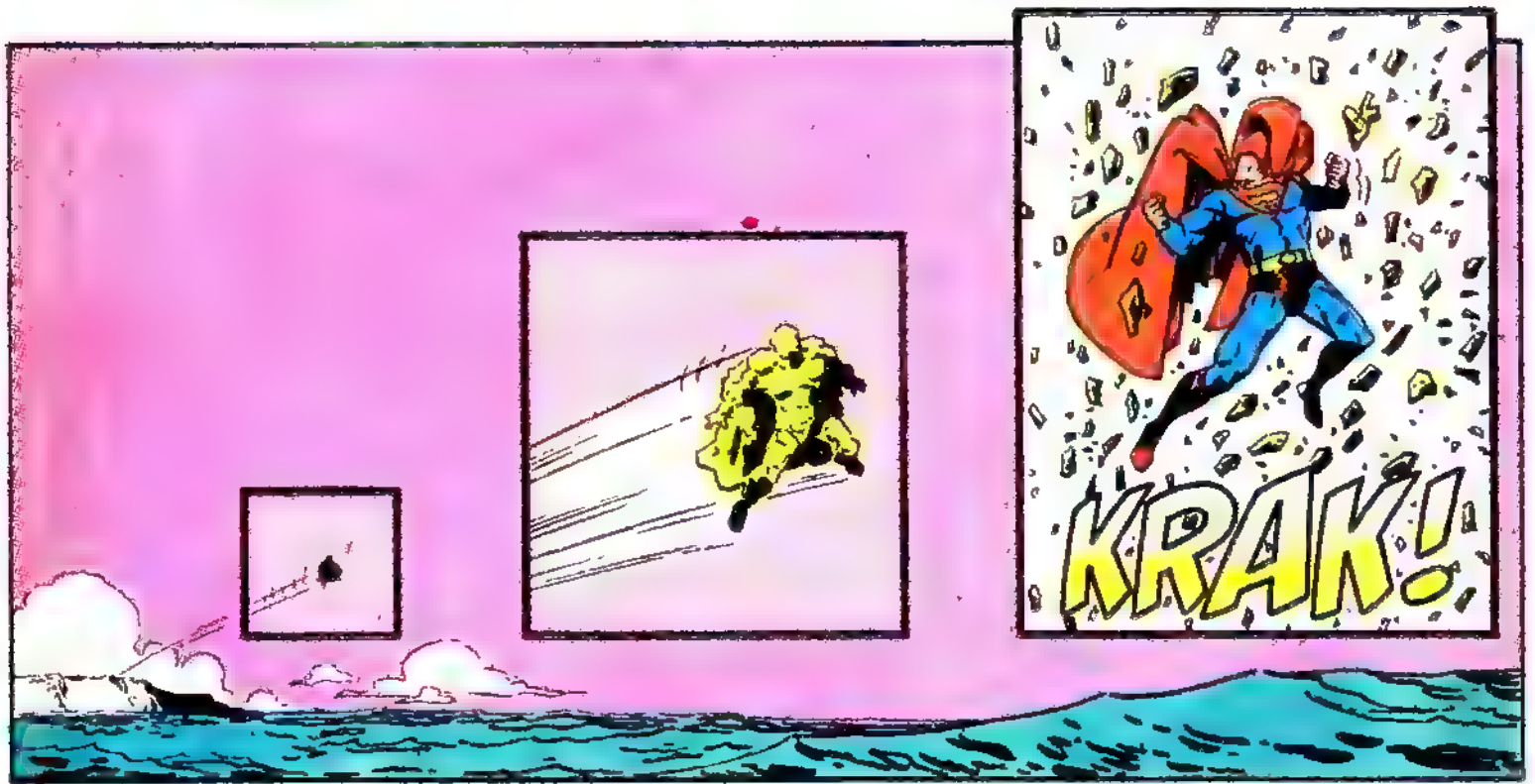
NO, THAT'S INSANE, THE ERADICATOR COULDN'T POSSIBLY ALTER ANY NATIVE LIFE-FORM SO RADICALLY... NOT IN SO SHORT A TIME!

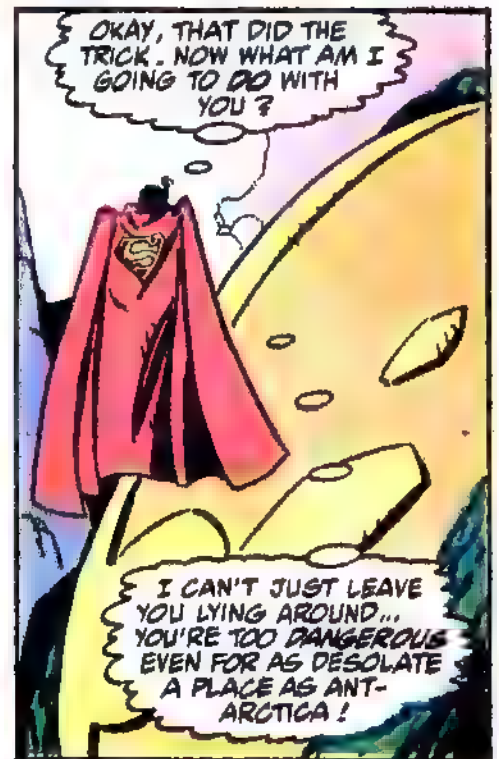
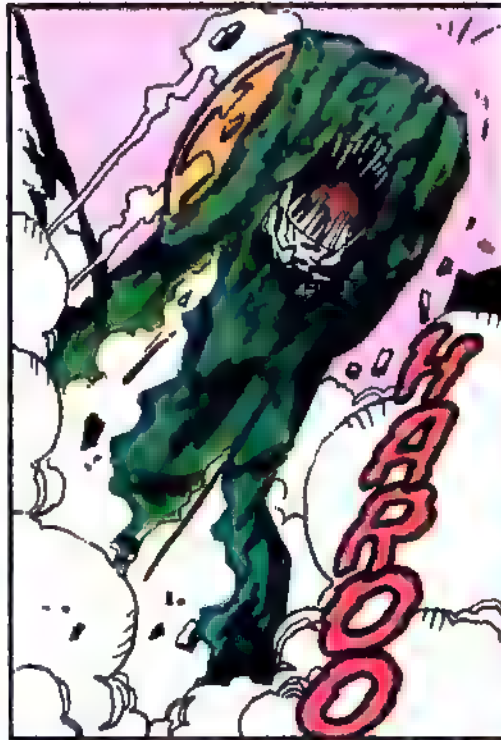
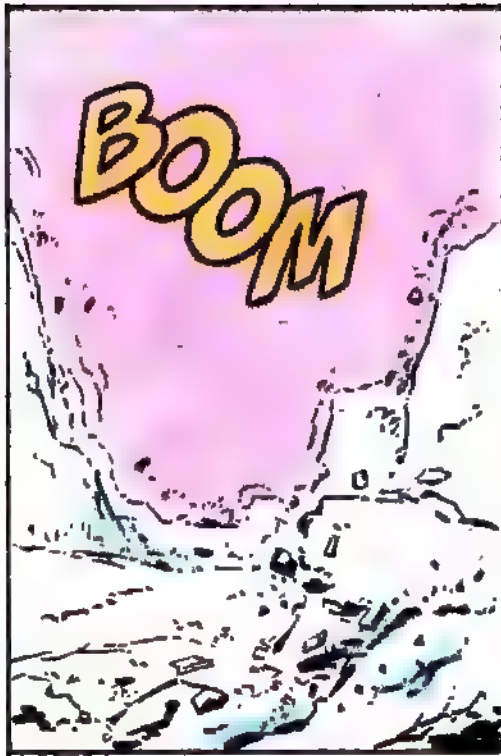
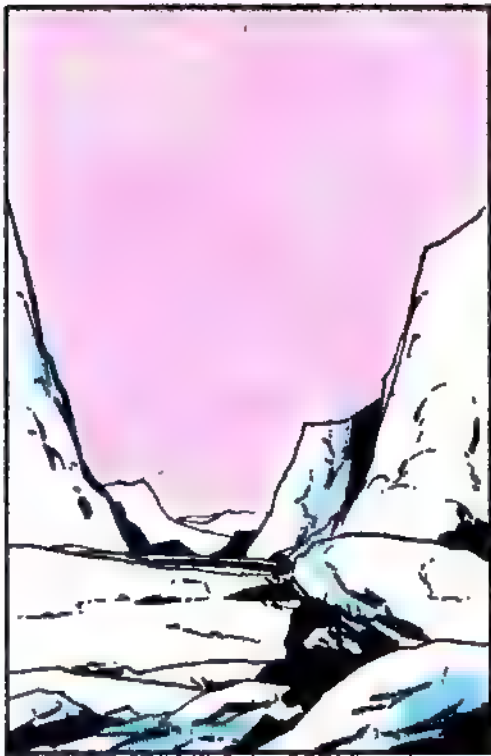
I STOPPED AN ALIEN CONSTRUCT NEAR HERE SOME YEARS AGO! * I HOPE THERE'S NO CONNECTION--

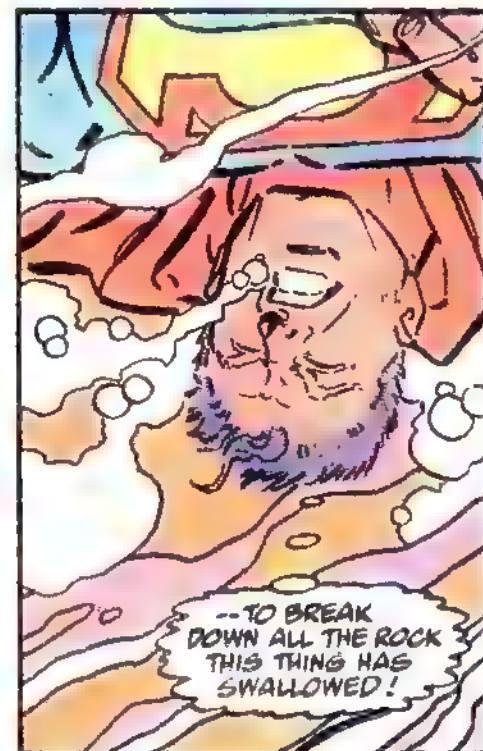
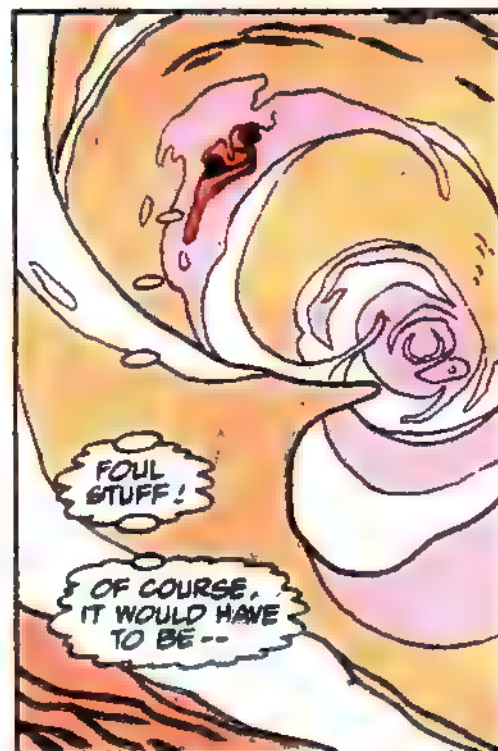
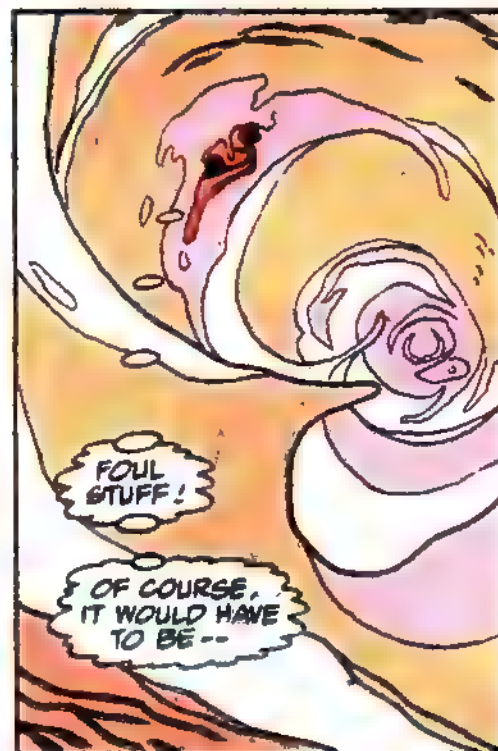
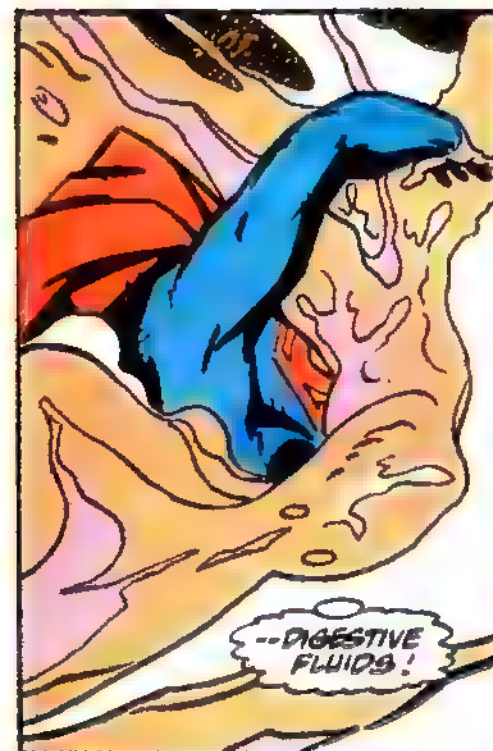
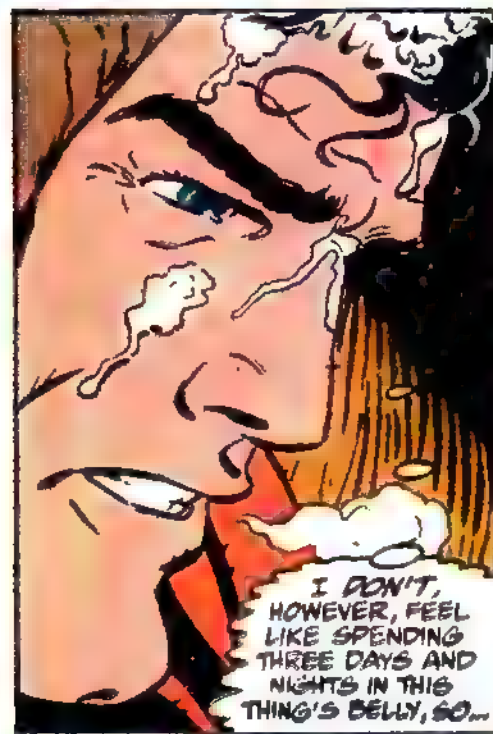
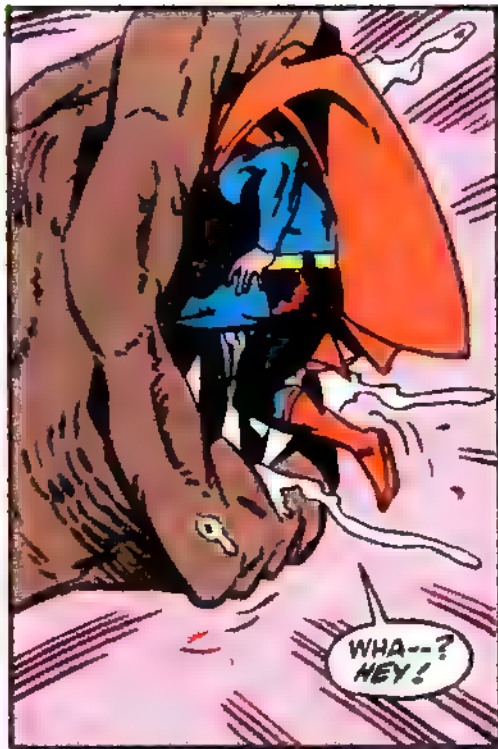
* IN SECRET ORIGINS #32.

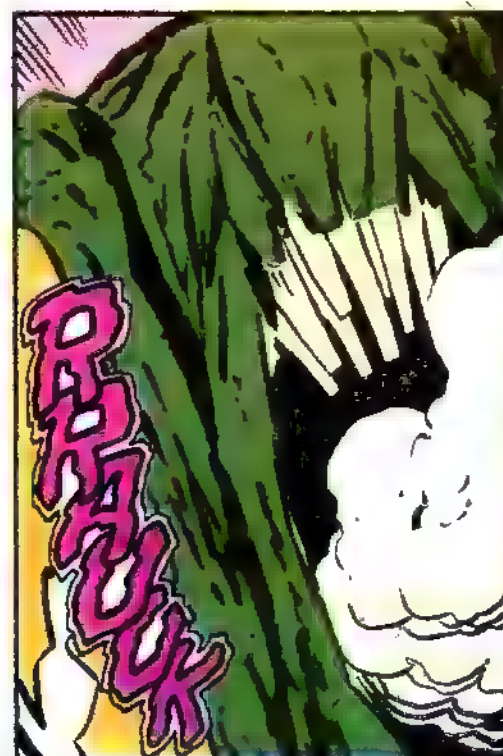
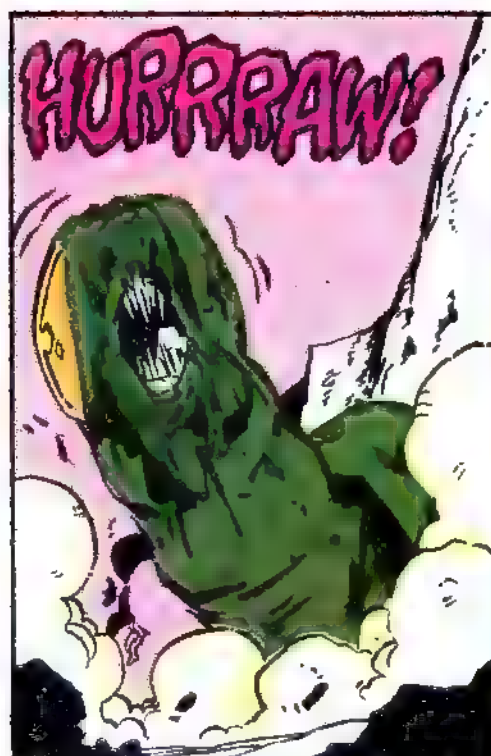
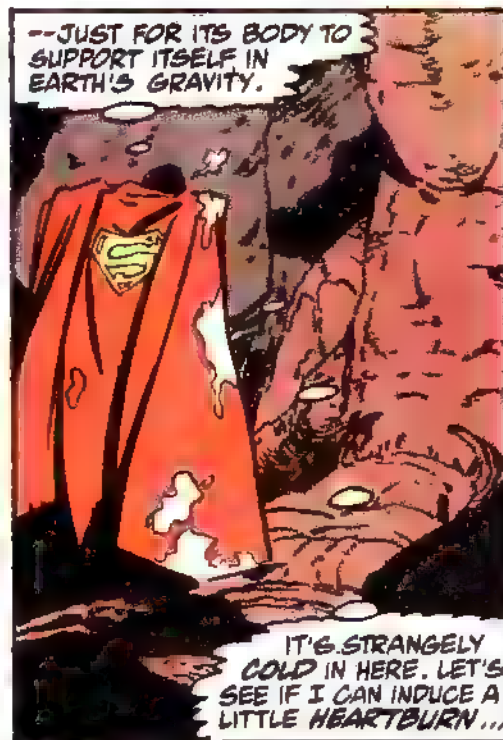
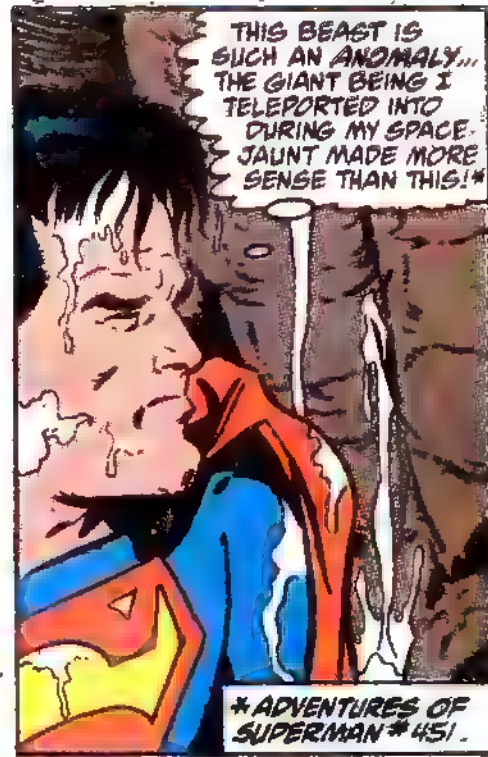
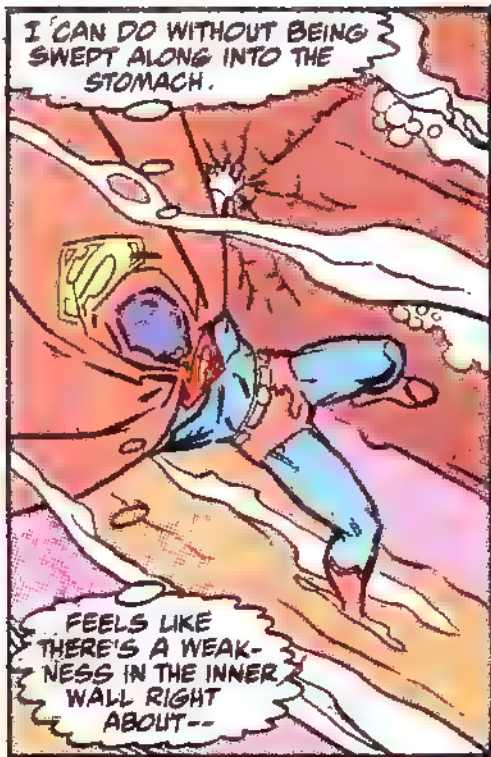


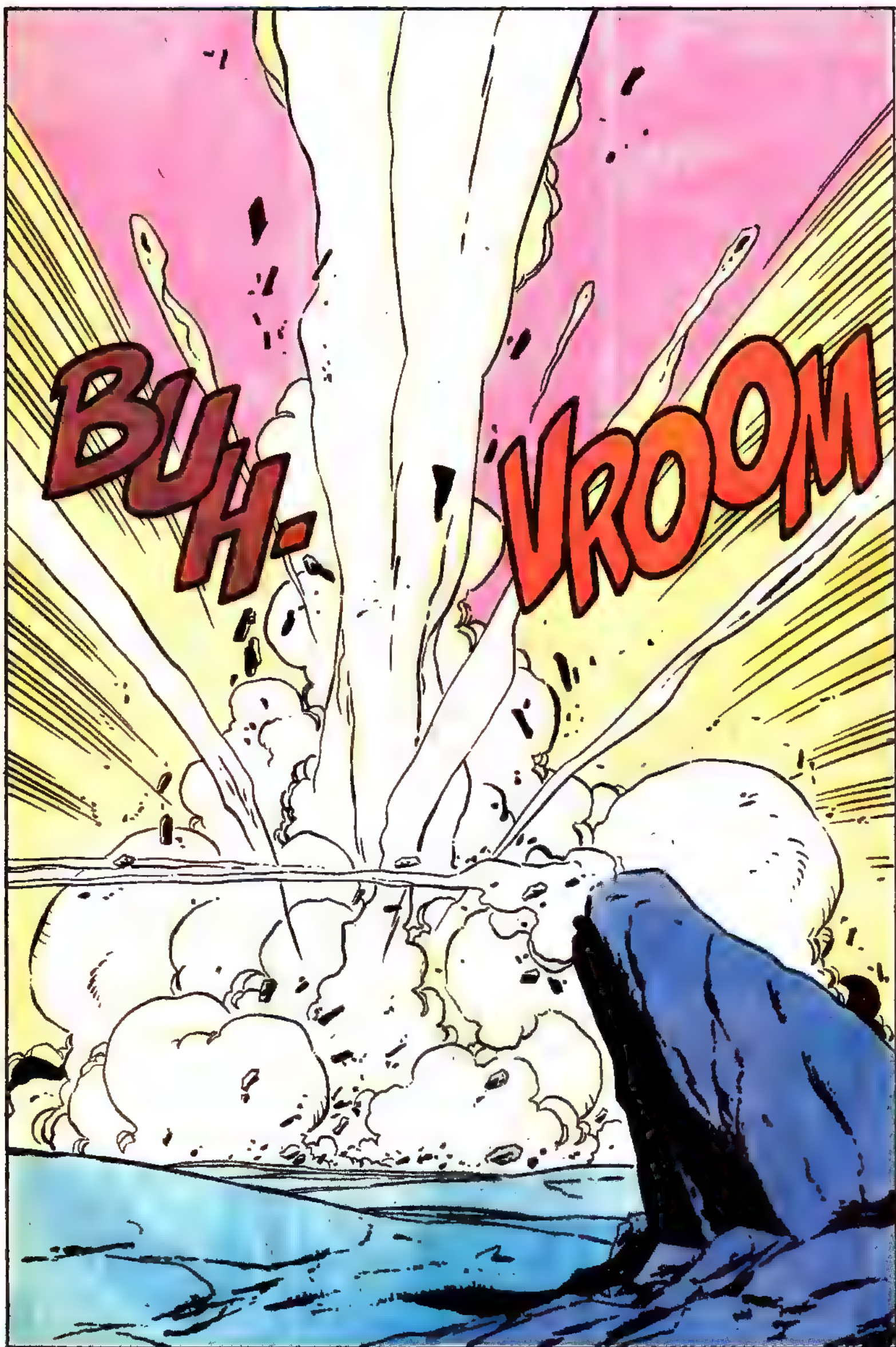


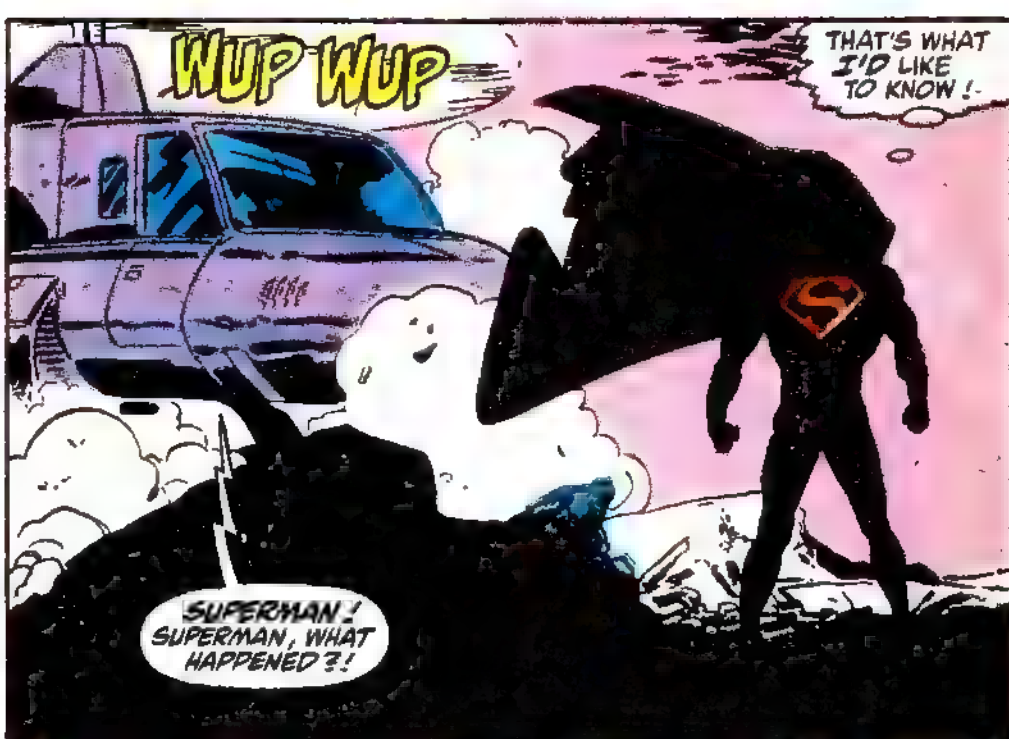
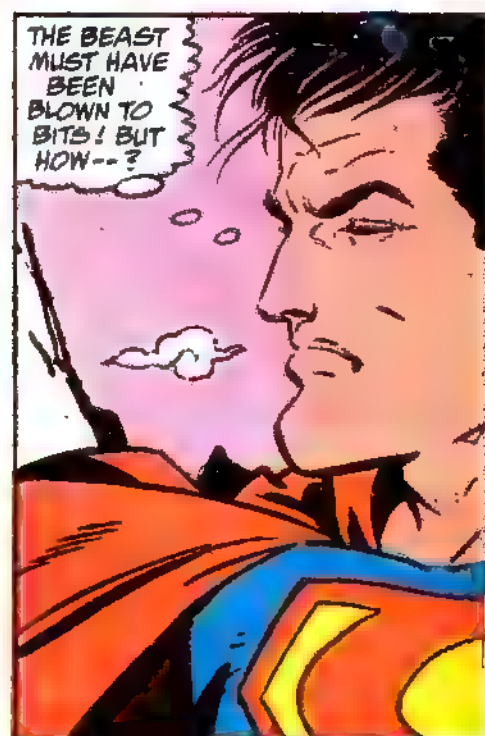
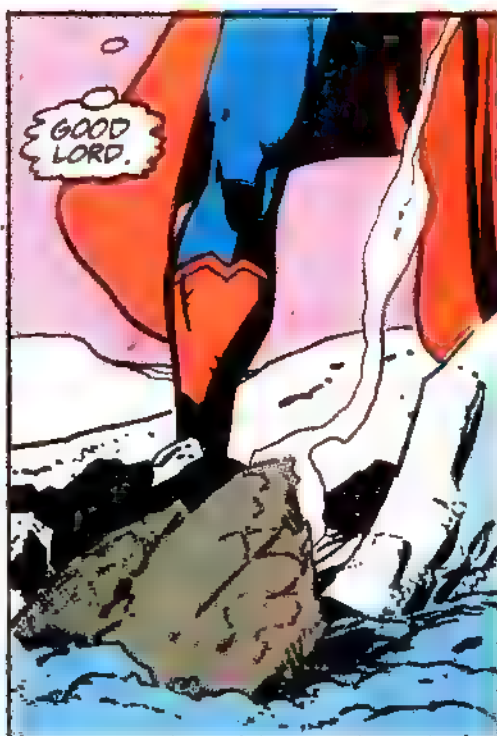
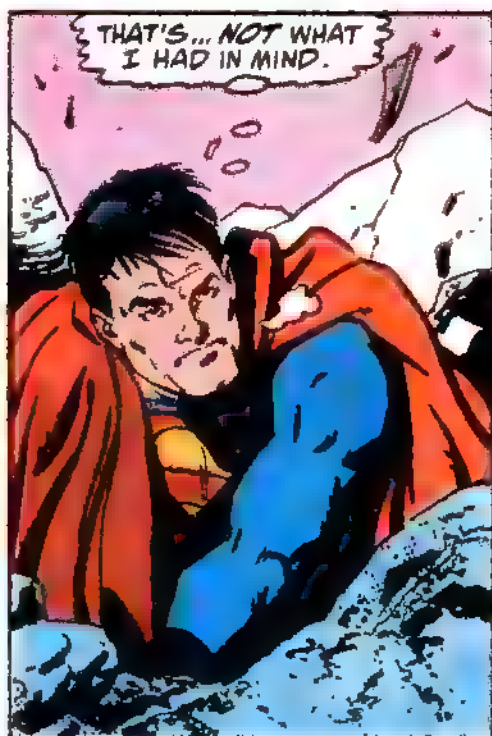
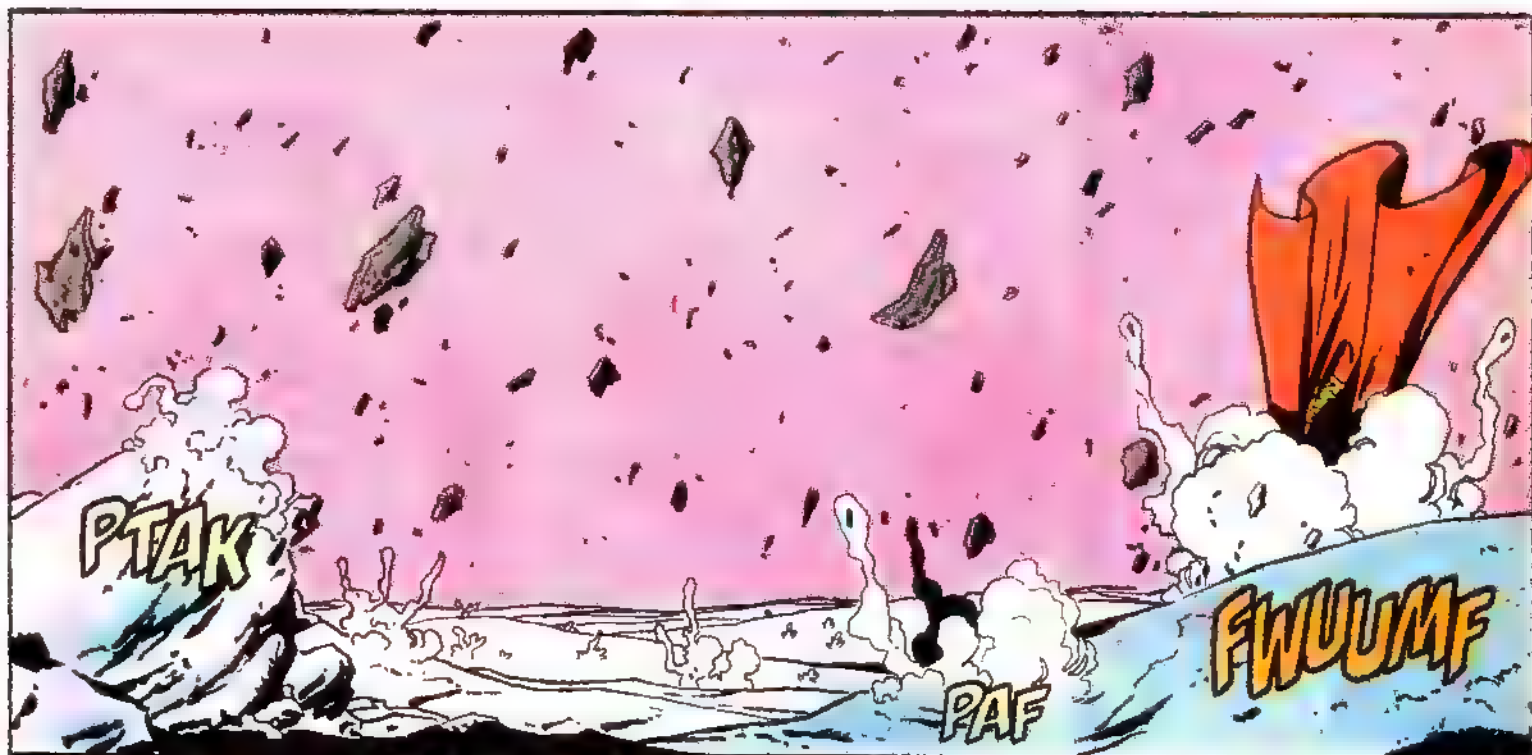


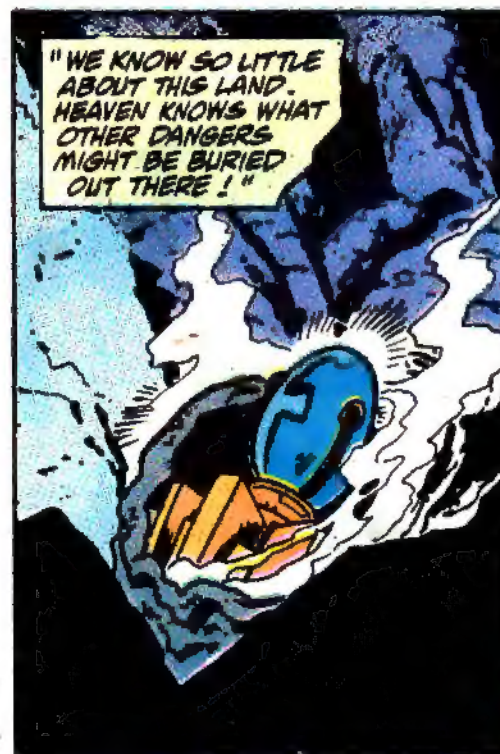
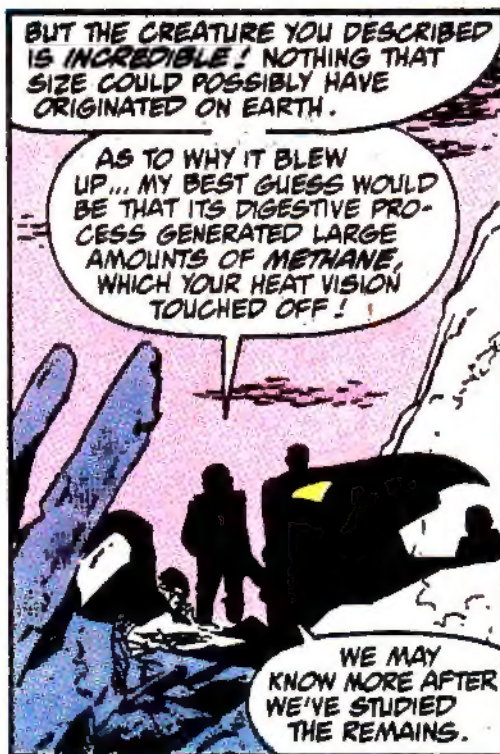












IN TWO WEEKS:

SUPERMAN #37

"PROJECT: JIMMY OLSEN"

IN THREE WEEKS:

THE ADVENTURES OF

SUPERMAN #460

"BE IT EVER SO DEADLY"

AND IN FOUR SHORT WEEKS: THE BRAINIAC TRILOGY BEGINS IN:

ACTION #647

MISS IT NOT!



DC COMICS INC.
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L-5172

Great Caesar's Ghost! Whatta response!! We've gotten so much mail on ACTION COMICS' return to monthly duty—with Superman at the core—that we're going to have to devote two letter-columns to it—here, and next month in ACTION COMICS #647! So without any further ado: your "Re-action" to ACTION COMICS #643.

Dear Mike:

Well, he's back.

I was surprised to find out just how much I was looking forward to ACTION #643. Regardless of the fact that George Perez was doing it, regardless of the fact that this was the issue that chronicled the Man of Steel's return to Earth, I think what excited me the most was that Superman was back in ACTION COMICS, where, as you yourself say, he belongs.

The story was fun, and seems indicative of the tone for this particular title: non-stop action, two-page punches, Superman using every one of his super-powers in quick succession against the forces of evil. This is fine with me, since it was stories like these that drew me to the character in the first place.

I somehow thought that after so long away from Earth, Superman would have been able to relax a wee bit, take time to catch up on his reading, things like that, instead of being plunged straight into another mystery. Ah, well, that's what makes him Superman, I guess.

My only criticism was proven pointless by the story's end: I found Darkseid to be written very much out of character. But it wasn't really Darkseid, now, was it? There you go, you had a long-time DC reader fooled. Congratulations.

Thanks again for bringing one of my favorites back home, and I don't mean to Metropolis.

Sean Twist

8-290 Springbank Drive
London, Ontario, N6J 2Y9

Dear Super-Team:

I love it! I love it! I love it!! What a way to end the Man of Steel's self-exile, with a fantastic homecoming story!

ACTION COMICS #643 was done remarkably well and I don't have many complaints about the issue itself. Some of the parts I liked best were: 1) The pages where Superman literally came back to Earth; 2) his reaction to seeing his friends and the people of Metropolis; 3) his big battle against Turmoil; and

4) the fact that his cape cannot be ripped any more (those capes cost money, you know). The Man of Steel obviously has a lot more confidence in himself now and that's what I like to see in a hero.

The mystery of the Eradicator really intrigues me and I'm waiting to learn more about it. I think the last remaining artifact from the planet Krypton should be kept in a safe place here on Earth—like, say, a Fortress of Solitude. (Hint. Hint.)

With Superman back on Earth I hope you guys resolve this stupid Matrix storyline, but keep Professor Hamilton and Gangbuster around—I've grown fond of these characters. On the other hand, Catherine Grant can go, too; she's useless. How about another Brainiac storyline, where the characters from L.E.G.I.O.N. '89 can help Superman stop him? This will give Vril Dox II the chance to reunite with his father.

While I'm at it I would like to cast my vote for Superman's revealing his secret identity to Lois Lane, because best friends shouldn't keep secrets from one another. I'm sure Lois would understand.

George Perez is not only an awesome artist but a radical writer as well. Brett Breeding is one of my favorite inkers—along with Karl Kesel, Terry Austin, and Al Gordon—and I'm glad he's inking George's pencils because they've never looked better. Mike Carlin has done a wonderful job overseeing all the Superman titles. Roger Stern, Jerry Ordway, Kerry Gammill, Dennis Janke, and Dan Jurgens have all done an extraordinary job with Superman. Keep up the good work, guys!

In closing, I feel that I have changed somewhat during Superman's exile—I don't exactly know in what way, but I'm glad I changed along with the Man of Steel. Thank you.

My grade for ACTION COMICS #643:
A+ (100% superb!)

The T.A.P.
806 12th Street
New Westminster, B.C.
Canada, V3M 4K4

*Matrix: Gone.
Hamilton and Gangbuster: Staying.
Catherine Grant: Staying (sorry).
Fortress of Solitude: Keep reading
ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN.
Brainiac: ACTION COMICS #s 647,
648, and 649.*

L.E.G.I.O.N. '89: Coming—but probably in L.E.G.I.O.N. '90 or '91.

Changing: Good. Your laundry could use the cleaning. (Jest! Gibel Japel!)

Dear Editor:

I was eagerly awaiting George Perez's debut on ACTION COMICS, and the wait was worth it! Everything about ACTION #643 was terrific—from the front cover to the last page.

I sense the same magic here that I do in WONDER WOMAN. In just one issue Clark Kent returned to Earth, a storyline was ended, and a new mystery was begun. Although I enjoyed the "Superman in Space" storyline, it's great to see him back.

The art was superb, as is to be expected. This issue really had the flavor of the old Superman stories by Curt Swan and Wayne Boring. This is great stuff!

Kevin Sharp
Palo Alto, CA

Roger, Jerry, Dan, and now George.

I've just finished reading ACTION COMICS #643—the end of the "Superman in Exile" storyline. This storyline was without a doubt the best Superman story that I have ever read. This statement is not influenced by the fact that Superman is my favorite character, or that Roger Stern, Jerry Ordway, and George Perez are my favorite writers and artists—it is the simple fact that the "exile" story showed us readers that Superman is indeed a super-man.

When THE MAN OF STEEL by John Byrne first came out, Superman was reduced in power to attract readers who would be bored and/or had become fed up with such an all-powerful being. While I found this pleasing, I did notice that other characters in the DC Universe were getting arguably stronger than Superman, i.e., Firestorm and Captain Atom. Even though I like the other heroes, especially Captain Atom, I began thinking that there was little use calling Superman Earth's #1 protector if there are crowds of other heroes far more powerful than he was.

But then along came the "Exile" series of stories and we see Superman thrust into an environment we haven't seen him in lately. In the vast vacuum of space we see him wrestling with his own morals as well as the many physical dangers he comes to face. Ultimately on Warworld we see Superman, weak from his travels and burning with guilt over his actions in the Pocket Universe, fighting on—still the hero I have loved, while becoming the savior again to a new slew of people on this world.

And as all of this is going down, we're shown what's happening on Earth with Superman gone. Lex Luthor has turned the stock exchange upside down with his bid for S.T.A.R. Labs. Clark Kent has been reported murdered. Lois Lane actually cries for him. We find out that Cat Grant has been working undercover for Clark against Morgan Edge. Metropolis is trashed by Mr. Mxyzptlk and then again by Turmoil, who nearly puts a permanent end to Gangbuster's own faltering return to action. (Bring him back for good, next time.) Matrix becomes Clark Kent and Lex realizes that his life is nothing without a challenge.

Meanwhile Superman finds that he was born to be a hero—as well as finding his Kryptonian legacy in the artifact itself. Quickly he heads home where he basks in the joy of the people of Metropolis who are thrilled to see him again, and he defeats the menace of Turmoil.

Now that this storyline has ended, I have come to the conclusion that no hero—DC or Marvel—could have done what Superman did. He is by far the greatest hero of them all.

Dean Husein
45 Michael Road
South Norwood, London
SE25, England

Dear Dudes:

Although Batman has been getting the spotlight in the public eye (and on their shirts) this year, let us not forget that there is some pretty excellent stuff going on in the Superman side of the DC Universe.

ACTION COMICS #643 has fulfilled all the expectations I had—and more. It was a grade A story for several reasons.

Reason #1: The format change of the ACTION COMICS title itself. Let's face it, the weekly idea was good in theory, but there was no way in heck I was going to chuck a buck-fifty a week to read a bunch of (mostly) mediocre stories. You brought back the reason to read ACTION COMICS—Superman!

Reason #2: Superman's triumphant return. The first four pages were awesome and well worth the price of the mag alone.

Reason #3: George Perez.

Reason #4: The overdue demise of Morgan Edge. Page 20 was great! Too bad he flopped over before Superman could really get at him, but it's good enough for me just to see him down. I hope he burns. It also gives Lex Luthor room to do his worst in Metropolis.

Reason #5: Turmoil versus Superman. This was one thriller of a fight scene. I am also glad it wasn't really Darkseid that had been dealing with Morgan Edge all along. I thought you were going to do LEGENDS all over again.

I look forward to the adventures of the Man of Steel three times every month now from you people. Ciao.

Blazer English
P.O. Box 312
Rock Island, WA 98850

Dear ACTION COMICS:

The "weekly" concept proved rather expensive to keep up with and collect. Nevertheless, I enjoyed much of the material that this costly project provided. The new direction, however—Superman's full-time return to the title—looks like it could be quite fun. I'll probably miss the previous format but...

What's in store would appear to include storylines that intentionally use "traditional," "old-fashioned," even "classic," if you will, facets of the Superman legend (who says, "Look up in the sky..." is corny?) while presenting new aspects and insights for the character, his life and his motivations. I like that.

Out with the old and in with the new? Not quite. Rather, a nice "marriage" of the two. DC has accomplished such a coupling successfully with Batman and Green Arrow. Supposedly this updating and revamping has included Superman as well, but it hasn't been this apparent—or well done—before (in my humble opinion).

The Man of Steel—back where he belongs, indeed!

Jaye
Montreal, Quebec

Dear Editor:

I am soooooo happy to see Superman back as the lead feature in ACTION COMICS. It's been a long time coming. I think it was a mistake to cut his storyline down to two pages an issue for ACTION COMICS WEEKLY. But now he's back!

ACTION #643 was amazing! Good art, good story, and an outstanding cover! I don't suppose you'd issue a poster of that cover, would you?

Is ACTION going to be a team-up book like the good old days? If so, I have three suggestions. Why don't you guest-star Blue Beetle, Nightwing and/or my favorite super-hero (sorry, Superman), Captain Marvel. You have to admit that a Superman/Captain Marvel team-up would be outstanding. You also have to admit that you could make the room for it in your schedule. Between the three Superman titles you have 36 issues a year to fill with stories. I think you could squeeze in such a team-up if you tried.

Welcome back to ACTION, Superman—I hope you stay forever.

Shawn Harris
355 Koch Avenue
Placentia, CA 92670

Our current plans, Shawn, are not to make any one title in the Superman trilogy of books exclusively a team-up book. But that doesn't mean there will be no team-ups.

On the contrary, all of our personnel have their favorites (Jerry Ordway wants the Captain Marvel story) and we would like to give each creative team a shot at doing team-up stories when they naturally fall into our "big picture." In other words, rather than forcing a team-up adventure simply because it's the third week of the month—every month—we would rather guest-star the

Flash when we have a break in the action, so to speak. It keeps us on our toes that way and it keeps you guys guessing as well.

Dear Mike:

The return issue of ACTION COMICS was a pure treat. The opening pages made the words "...strange visitor from another planet, who came to Earth..." ring in my mind.

And I'm pleased to see that the continuation of story from one title to the next will go on between the three Superman titles.

Heck, I was pleased with the whole book. I'm going to buy a couple of extra copies.

Melissa Page
236 New Salem Loop
Nortonville, KY 42442

SPECIAL ASIDE: Thanks to Keith Giffen of JUSTICE LEAGUE(S) fame for pitching in this month when George Perez found himself felled by his one weakness—pneumonia. We like to think we're all Supermen here. Thanks again, Keith, see ya soon.

IN TWO WEEKS: Jimmy Olsen is not thrilled when the Man of Steel takes him to the Cadmus Project so they can change his recently elasticated DNA molecules back to normal—since Jimmy feels they wouldn't have become stretched in the first place if it wasn't for Superman and his Eradicator. There's only one thing for Superman's Ex-Pal to do—escape with his life! And there's only one legion of Newsboys that can help him out ... and all of this is in only one SUPERMAN #37! (Okay, so there was another SUPERMAN #37 published back in 1945—but we promise it didn't have this story in it! This one's by Jerry Ordway and Dennis Jankel) Then...

ONE WEEK AFTER THAT: Superman is off to the Antarctic to check up on what's become of his Eradicator. Probably a mistake, he realizes, when he's forced to breach the Fortress it's surrounded itself with. Dan Jurgens does the honors in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #480, along with guest-inker Andy Kubert. And finally...

ONE WEEK LATER: The long promised—and long overdue—beginning of the Brainiac Trilogy! 'Nuff said, as they say! Roger Stern, Brett Breeding, George Perez, and Kerry Gammill are the creators of ACTION COMICS #647, in just thirty days! See ya all three times!

—Mike Carlin



An Inviskid Scan